

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, October 2, 2013



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday Oct. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/A. Gombert)

ISRAEL PM WARNS ON ROUHANI

RICK GLADSTONE

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UNITED NATIONS - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel sought to shred the credibility of Iran's new president Tuesday, using his annual speech at the U.N. to cast the Iranian as a man who could not be trusted and to press the international community to keep up sanctions to prevent him from building a nuclear bomb. In a speech that clearly reflected Israel's worry that the Iranian president, Hasan Rouhani, had successfully conveyed a readiness to compromise at the U.N. last week, Netanyahu focused the majority of his 33-minute address on Rouhani. He described him as a beguiling figure who used reassuring words to mask intentions to attain nuclear weapons. Only "tough sanctions and credible military threats," Netanyahu said, would compel Rouhani to put an end to that effort, although in an apparent nod to emerging diplomatic efforts, sought to prescribe precise conditions for a deal, including that Iran stop enriching uranium.

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Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) speaks at a news conference with Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), second from left, on the first day of open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act at the Capitol in Washington, Oct. 1, 2013. President Barack Obama, citing a high demand on the health insurance exchanges created under the Affordable Care Act, urged Republicans to drop their fight against the health law.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

US insurance markets open to surge of customers

CHICAGO (AP) — Americans got their first chance Tuesday to shop for health insurance using the online marketplaces that are at the center of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, the divisive program that will do much to define the president's legacy.

The years-long battle over the biggest expansion in coverage in nearly five decades culminated in a shutdown of the federal government that also began Tuesday.

Government websites designed to sell the policies struggled to handle the surge of traffic, with many frustrated users reporting trouble setting up accounts. State and federal agencies were working to fix the sites. There should be time to make improvements — the open-enrollment period lasts for six months. Administration officials said they are pleased with the strong consumer interest, but on a day of glitches they refused to say how many people actually

succeeded in signing up for coverage. They gave inconsistent answers on whether a common problem had been cleared up or was still being corrected. By Tuesday afternoon, at least 2.8 million people had visited the healthcare.gov website, according to officials overseeing the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. The website had seven times the number of simultaneous users ever recorded on the medicare.gov site.

But at most only a handful of people had been able to successfully enroll online through the federal website in that time period, according to two industry officials with knowledge of the situation. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the issue publicly. The number of those enrolled is expected grow as technicians tackle and resolve glitches.

Continued on Page 3

Venezuela: Maduro rejects cordial relations with US

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— President Nicolas Maduro said Tuesday that Venezuela will not have cordial relations with the United States as long as U.S. diplomats continue what he alleges are attempts to destabilize his country.

He said "new points of contact" can be established, but only if Washington ends such activity.

Maduro's tough talk came a day after he announced the expulsion of the top

three were given 48 hours to leave Venezuela.

Psaki said the U.S. might take reciprocal action in accordance with the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations and on consular relations but was still considering what action to take.

She said the allegations were related to the U.S. Embassy workers' travel to Bolivar state, which is home to troubled state-owned foundries and Venezuela's main hydroelectric plant.

"They were there conduct-

embassy's political section. Speaking Tuesday from the government palace, Maduro said that "while the government of the United States does not understand that it has to respect our country's sovereignty there will be simply be no cordial relations nor cordial communication."

"The day that the government of President (Barack) Obama rectifies the situation we will establish new points of contact to discuss common issues," said Maduro, the hand-picked



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro speaks to soldiers inside a military base in Coro, Venezuela. Maduro said Tuesday that Venezuela will not have cordial relations with the United States as long as U.S. diplomats continue what he alleges are attempts to destabilize his country.

(AP Photo/Miraflores Press Office)

U.S. diplomat in Venezuela, Charge d'Affaires Kelly Keiderling, and two other embassy officials, alleging they conspired with "the extreme right" to sabotage the economy and power grid.

The United States again on Tuesday rejected the allegations that it is trying to destabilize this South American nation.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Venezuela's government delivered a diplomatic note to the U.S. Embassy in Caracas on Monday night that said it had declared the U.S. charge d'affaires, the political officer and the consular officer personae non grata. She said the

ing normal diplomatic engagement, as we've said in the past and should come as no surprise," Psaki said.

"We, of course, maintain regular contacts across the Venezuelan political spectrum.

And we maintain a broad perspective on Venezuela and travel frequently, of course. That's what diplomats do. So there was nothing out of the ordinary about that. And that was part of their accusations," she said.

Expelled with Keiderling, the top embassy official in the absence of an ambassador, were consular officer David Moo and Elizabeth Hoffman, who works in the

successor to late President Hugo Chavez.

On Monday, Maduro said a group of embassy officials that his government had been following for months was "dedicated to meeting with the Venezuelan extreme right, to financing it and feeding its actions to sabotage the electrical system and the Venezuela economy."

Venezuela's economy is increasingly struggling ahead of the Dec. 8 elections. Annual inflation is at more than 45 percent and the government is running short of foreign currency. The oil-rich OPEC member country has been plagued by worsening power outages since 2010.

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Jamaica 'comfortably' meets IMF targets

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica's top finance official says the government "comfortably" met conditions set by the International Monetary Fund to pass the first performance review of a loan program despite major challenges. Finance Minister Peter Phillips told lawmakers Tuesday that the four-year program's front-loaded adjustments and reforms are designed to restore economic growth and place debt on a "firm downward path." Phillips says the government hopes that real GDP growth "will return on a sustained basis" to the island. The Washington-based IMF says Jamaica has so far done a good job of implementing fiscal policies.

FBI dismantles Puerto Rican crime group

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The FBI says it has dismantled a powerful drug trafficking organization in Puerto Rico with ties to the U.S. and the Dominican Republic that generated more than \$100 million in revenue. The 27 suspects are accused of conspiring to import cocaine from the Dominican Republic into Puerto Rico to sell on the island and U.S. mainland. Carlos Cases is the Puerto Rico-based FBI special agent in charge. He said Tuesday in a phone interview that the organization is one of the most powerful gangs operating in the Caribbean in the past 20 years. The suspects are accused of moving at least 19,800 lbs of cocaine from May 2005 to June 2010.

Jamaica seizes a ton of pot in traffic stop

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaican police say they seized 2,000 pounds (907 kilograms) of marijuana during a routine traffic stop in a rural community. The Jamaica Constabulary Force said Tuesday that lawmen signaled the driver of a truck to stop in the northern parish of St. Mary. They say that a search of the truck led to the discovery of 53 bags and two buckets stuffed with pot. Four people were taken into custody, but only one was arrested. His identity is being withheld pending further investigation. Jamaica is the Caribbean's largest producer and exporter of marijuana. Plants are grown mostly on remote hillsides or hidden among other crops.

Haiti pulls envoy over DR court decision

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The Haitian government said Tuesday that it is recalling its ambassador in the Dominican Republic's capital over a court ruling that strips Dominican citizenship from the children of Haitian migrants. The decision by Haiti's foreign affairs ministry came almost a week after a ruling by the Constitutional Court. It decided to block citizenship for thousands of people born to Haitian migrant workers since 1929. This could affect some 210,000 Dominican-born people of Haitian descent and around 34,000 born to parents of other nationalities. "The Chancellery is very concerned about this decision," the Haitian foreign affairs ministry said.

Bahamas marines face trial for migrants

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A spokesman for the Royal Bahamas Defense Force says five Bahamian marines are on trial for the alleged mistreatment of Cubans at a detention center for migrants. Lt. Origin Deleveaux says the men are facing a summary trial before a military officer who will act as the judge. The names of the marines and the charges against them have not been released. The hearing was in its second day Tuesday at the Coral Harbor Base and was closed to the public.

US insurance markets open to surge of customers

Continued from front

Obama called it a "historic day" for uninsured Americans. He said the opportunity is life-changing for those who could not get access to health care before Tuesday's launch of the exchanges.

Obama accused Republicans of making the concept of keeping people uninsured "the centerpiece of their agenda."

Republicans vehemently oppose the law, especially a mandate that all Americans have health care insurance or face tax penalties. The law provides subsidies to help lower-income people pay for the plans. The federal government's shutdown will have no immediate effect on the insurance marketplaces that are the backbone of the law, because they operate with money that isn't subject to the annual budget wrangling in Washington.

The marketplaces represent a turning point in the U.S. approach to health care. The Obama administration hopes to sign up 7 million people during the first year and aims to eventually sign up at least half of the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans through an expansion of Medicaid, the government-funded program that provides health care coverage for poorer Americans, or through government-subsidized plans.

Many states predicted that an initial surge of interest would test the online system, but they expect most people to sign up closer to Dec. 15, which is the deadline for coverage to start Jan. 1. Customers have until the end of March to sign up in order to avoid tax penalties.

Under the law, health insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to someone with a pre-existing

medical condition and cannot impose lifetime caps on coverage. They also must cover a list of

exchanges opened. For nearly every state using the federal exchange, users on Tuesday reached a

the issue as soon as possible. Please try again later." If people become frustrated with the malfunctions in



Organizing For Action workers hold signs informing the public about the Affordable Care Act on the first day of open enrollment outside the Courthouse Metro Station in Arlington, Va., Oct. 1, 2013.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

essential services, ranging from mental health treatment to maternity care. Signs of trouble handling the volume of consumers emerged soon after the

page with a notification to please wait or a message that said:

"The System is down at the moment.

"We're working to resolve

the computer-based enrollment process and turn away from the program, the prospects for Obama's signature domestic-policy achievement could dim. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Israeli leader Netanyahu excoriates new president of Iran



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013 at U.N. headquarters.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Continued from front

Iran has repeatedly said that uranium enrichment is its legal right and that the country's nuclear ambitions are peaceful. "I wish I could believe Rouhani, but I don't," Netanyahu told the General Assembly, where Iran's seats were vacant in apparent retaliation for Israel's boycott of Rouhani's speech a week earlier.

"Because facts are stubborn things and the facts are that Iran's savage record flatly contradicts Rouhani's soothing rhetoric."

The contrast in tone between Netanyahu and Rouhani was stark. Unlike the Iranian, who smiled a lot during his address at the same podium and sought to appear conciliatory, the Israeli prime minister was low on smiles, high on sarcasm. Rouhani did not mention Israel by name in his address, nor its prime minister; Netanyahu spoke the Iran president's name 25 times.

He called Iran a rogue regime that had stockpiled nuclear material for what Netanyahu described as a rush to build a bomb. He also asserted that the sanctions, which have deeply afflicted Iran's economy, were precisely what had driven Iran to appear more flexible about making a deal.

"That's why Rouhani got elected in the first place," Netanyahu said. "That's why he launched his charm offensive."

Netanyahu said the international response to Iran's entreaties for sanctions relief should be "distrust, dismantle and verify," and he repeated his warnings that Israel reserved the right to preemptively strike Iran's nuclear facilities if it deemed that the Iranians were close to producing nuclear weapons.

He mentioned President Barack Obama only once in his speech, praising him for insisting that Iran take concrete steps to back up its words. But in contrast to the display of unity during Netanyahu's meeting on

Monday with Obama at the White House, the Israeli prime minister hinted at their differences in how to deal with Iran.

"If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone," Netanyahu said. Iran swiftly issued a rejoinder.

Khodadad Seifi, a deputy ambassador at Iran's mission to the U.N., said afterward that his country had found Netanyahu's speech inflammatory, rejected the notion that Iran was building a nuclear arsenal, and asserted its right to self-defense.

"The Israeli Prime Minister better not even think about attacking Iran, let alone planning for that," the Iranian diplomat said. He capped his remarks by saying that Iran's "smile policy" was better than "lying."

Netanyahu's address, the last at the annual General Assembly session of member speeches, served as a bookend to a conclave that has been dominated by the Iran nuclear issue and an aggressive diplomatic outreach by Iran. Rouhani, over four days last week, blitzed New York with closed-door meetings, public addresses, and television interviews, all the while seeking to convey his desire to swiftly resolve the nuclear standoff with the West.

The visit ended with a brief telephone call from Obama, the first such communication by Iranian and U.S. leaders in 34 years of estrangement.

The optimism conveyed by Rouhani's visit did not sway Netanyahu.

He said a nuclear-armed Iran was the equivalent of 50 North Koreas. He reminded his audience that, in Israel's view, a nuclear-armed Iran posed an existential threat to Israel.

Netanyahu declared that Rouhani was no different from any other president of Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"They've all served that same unforgiving creed, that same unforgiving regime," he said. □

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US Senate rejects House offer amid shutdown crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Much of the vast machinery of the U.S. government ground to a halt Tuesday

traffic controllers, Border Patrol agents and most food inspectors — will continue to work.

the administration is open to changes in the health care law in future negotiations, but not as part of

passing a budget bill. Stock markets around the world reacted resiliently, with analysts saying significant damage to the U.S. economy was unlikely unless the shutdown lasted more than a few days. U.S. stocks edged higher Tuesday, while European stocks mostly recovered after falling the day before the shutdown deadline. Asian stocks were mixed.

The stalemate pits Democrats against a core of conservative small-government activists who have mounted a campaign to seize the must-do budget measure in an effort to dismantle the 2010 health care reform, which is intended to provide coverage for the millions of Americans now uninsured. □



World War II Veteran George Bloss, from Gulfport, Miss., looks out over the National World War II Memorial in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. Veterans who had traveled from across the country were allowed to visit the National World War II Memorial after it had been officially closed because of the partial government shutdown. After their visit, National World War II Memorial was closed again.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

as Democrats and Republicans blamed each other for a partial shutdown that closed federal agencies, national parks and research facilities across the nation. Ominously, there were suggestions from leaders in both parties that the shutdown, heading for its second day, could last for weeks and grow to encompass a possible default by the Treasury if Congress fails to raise the nation's debt ceiling.

Speaking at the White House, President Barack Obama accused Republicans of causing the first partial closure in 17 years as part of a non-stop "ideological crusade" to wipe out his signature health care law.

House Speaker John Boehner disagreed: "The president isn't telling the whole story," he said in an opinion article posted on the USA Today website. "The fact is that Washington Democrats have slammed the door on reopening the government by refusing to engage in bipartisan talks." About 800,000 employees — about a third of the federal workforce — are being forced off the job in the first government shutdown in 17 years, suspending most nonessential federal programs and services. People classified as essential employees — such as air

The shutdown began when Congress missed a midnight deadline Monday to pass temporary funding bill, stalled by conservative efforts to push through a delay in Obama's health law. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he would not negotiate as long as Republicans were holding up a straightforward spending bill to keep the government operating.

The Senate vote marked the fourth time during this fight that it has rejected House Republican proposals, including an initial attempt to defund the health care program altogether. House Republicans answered the latest Senate vote with a proposal for legislation to reopen portions of the government, including iconic national parks like Yosemite and Yellowstone, while still demanding concessions on health care. The idea was swiftly rejected by White House spokesman Jay Carney as "not a serious approach." House and Senate Democrats also said they would reject the bid to reopen portions of the government. Reid accused Republicans of "trying to cherry-pick some of the few parts of government that they like."

White House communications director Jennifer Palmieri told MSNBC that

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5 stabbed or slashed in NYC park

MARC SANTORA

J. DAVID GOODMAN

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NEW YORK - An emotionally disturbed man wielding scissors stabbed or slashed five people Tuesday, including a father and his toddler, in a park along the

36-year-old woman jogging under some trees on a riverside path and stabbed her in the back. A minute or two later, he attacked a 36-year-old man who was walking his dog. At first the man thought he had been punched in

As the attacks played out one after the other, it quickly became clear that the normally peaceful park had been transformed into a scene of violence. A bystander who saw the father being attacked confronted Graham, ac-



A New York City police officer at the scene of an investigation at Riverside Park in New York, Oct. 1, 2013. An emotionally disturbed man wielding scissors stabbed or slashed five people, including a father and his toddler, in the park along the Hudson River, according to the police.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

Hudson River on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the police said.

A bystander wrestled a man to the ground as police officers rushed to the scene and placed the suspected assailant in custody, according to the authorities.

The suspect was identified as Julius Graham, 43. Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said Graham was carrying identification from Texas, but had been living in a homeless shelter in the Bronx as recently as a week ago.

According to a sequence of events given by Kelly, the seemingly random rampage started just before 8 a.m. and lasted less than 10 minutes, when Graham approached a

the gut, but then saw the blood and realized he had been stabbed.

Then Graham attacked a 32-year-old woman jogging farther south along the path, which winds its way through plantings, benches and public sculptures. She was stabbed in the neck. At this point, Graham confronted a 35-year-old man as he was pushing his 2-year-old son in a stroller. The father was stabbed in the chest as he tried to fend off the attacker.

"The man is attempting to protect his son, and his son is slashed in the arm," Kelly told reporters after a Police Department event in the Bronx.

The stroller remained in the park surrounded by yellow police tape.

cording to the police, and was able to wrestle him to the ground, keeping him subdued until the police arrived at 8:04 a.m.

"He did a good job," Kelly said.

The bystander, who declined to give his name before being whisked away by police officers, told reporters that the real hero was the father.

The attacks occurred on a sunny autumn morning as the park was crowded with joggers, bikers, people heading to work or out for a stroll. Shurita Fields, 51, who was at work at a Sanitation Department center beside the Hudson River, said several people came running out of the park, screaming that there was a madman stabbing people. □

The stroller remained in the park surrounded by yellow police tape. □

NYPD: Bikers pull over, beat SUV driver

NEW YORK (AP) — A man driving with his family along a New York City highway was attacked and beaten by a large group of motorcyclists who first surrounded his sport utility vehicle and stopped it on the road, then chased him for miles after he plowed through the blockade of bikes in an attempt to escape.

One biker suffered broken legs and apparent spine injuries when the SUV ran over him and may be paralyzed, police said. A second biker suffered a leg injury. The driver, who was traveling with his wife and toddler, was taken to a hospital where he required stitches to his face.

The frightening assault on the 33-year-old man began around 1:30 p.m. local time Sunday on Manhattan's West Side Highway and was partially captured on a helmet-mounted video camera worn by one of the riders involved in the chase.

A portion of the video posted on the Internet by an unidentified user shows a large group of bikers swarming around the Range Rover as it heads north on the highway.

One of the bikers then moves into the SUV's lane and rides briefly alongside the vehicle, peering in through the driver's side window. It isn't clear from the video what the driver might have done to anger the motorcyclist.

The biker then cuts in front of the Range Rover and, still staring at the driver, suddenly slows down. It isn't captured on the video, but the motorcycle and SUV bumped, police said.

The motorcyclists, 20 to 30 in all, then come to a complete halt on the highway, blocking the SUV's path.

Some dismount and approach the vehicle. Police said some of the bikers then began damaging the Range Rover, which isn't clear from the video.

The video shows the SUV suddenly accelerating, bouncing over at least one of the motorcycles and its rider as others scramble to get out of the way. The cyclists give chase, pursuing the driver for about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers). At one point, the bikers succeed in getting the SUV to stop. One ripped open the driver's door, but he sped away.

The chase ended when the SUV exited the highway and got stuck in traffic on a city street. The video shows one biker using his helmet to smash the driver's window. Police said the group then pulled the man from the SUV and beat him, although that part isn't shown on the recording posted online. The police department confirmed that the video circulating online is authentic.

Police didn't identify the driver, who was not charged. His wife and child were not injured.

On Tuesday, police arrested the biker who was involved in the initial accident. Christopher Cruz, 28, of New Jersey, was charged with reckless endangerment, reckless driving, endangering the welfare of a child and menacing. He was not injured. Cruz was in custody awaiting arraignment Tuesday and hadn't yet been assigned a lawyer. A woman who answered a phone number listed in some records as being connected with the address where Cruz lives said she didn't speak English and hung up the phone. □

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US Financial Front:

American car sales dip, but automakers see rebound

DEE-ANN DURBIN

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Automakers expect little impact from the U.S. government shutdown, and they predict a fourth-quarter rebound af-

ter 2,049 vehicles of unseating GM as the top U.S. automaker for the first time since May of 2011. Most industry officials viewed September as an anomaly. They also downplayed the impact of the

Czubay, Ford's U.S. sales manager.

Jim Lentz, Toyota's North American CEO, told The Associated Press in an interview that people have grown used to dysfunction in Washington.

Earlier this year, when the government failed to avoid automatic spending cuts known as sequestration, there were predictions that the economy would melt down, Lentz said.

"Basically they were told that when you wake up tomorrow, the Earth is going to stop spinning," Lentz said. "For the most part the Earth didn't stop. And I think that's how they view this again."

The shutdown will only affect sales if it causes credit markets to tighten, Lentz said.

That will be a problem, he said, because low interest rates and abundant credit have helped fuel the auto sales recovery.

There was concern among executives and analysts that a long shutdown — and a looming confrontation over raising the government's debt ceiling — could eventually cause sales to fall. McNeil said anything over two weeks could cut into consumer confidence.

"Consumers don't like to make big-ticket item purchases when there's a lot of uncertainty in the economy," said Jesse Toprak, senior analyst for the TrueCar.com auto pricing site.

One reason GM's sales fell last month was a reversal in pickup trucks, which have been hot-sellers. Sales of GM's full-sized pickups, the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, fell 8 percent even though the company is selling redesigned trucks. Some versions of the trucks were slow to reach showrooms.

At the same time, Ford's F-Series pickup, the top-selling vehicle in the nation, posted nearly a 10 percent increase, and sales of Chrysler's Ram truck rose 8 percent.

Ford and Chrysler offered more than \$4,000 in discounts as they sold down 2013 models, according to the Edmunds.com auto site. But GM reduced its incentive spending almost 30 percent compared with last year to about \$3,900. □



In this Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013 photo Chevrolet passenger cars form a row on a dealer's lot in Needham, Mass. Data on U.S. auto sales for September were released on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

ter a rare sales decline in September.

Auto sales dropped 4 percent from a year ago to just over 1.1 million, mainly due to a calendar quirk that pulled Labor Day weekend transactions into August's numbers. The drop ended a 27-month streak of gains for the industry.

General Motors, Honda and Volkswagen reported double-digit declines for last month. Toyota, Nissan and Hyundai posted smaller decreases. Only Ford and Chrysler reported gains among the bigger automakers.

GM's 11 percent drop was its first since July of last year. It allowed Ford to get within

government shutdown, assuming it's a short one.

Kurt McNeil, GM's U.S. sales chief, said the fundamentals are still in place for GM and the industry to rebound in the coming months. Jobless claims are falling, home prices continue to recover, gas prices are down, household wealth is rising and the Federal Reserve has postponed the end of a bond-buying program that kept interest rates low, he said.

"As long as the underlying economic factors are supporting the business, which we believe they will through the end of this year and into 2014, we'll get through this turbulence," said Ken

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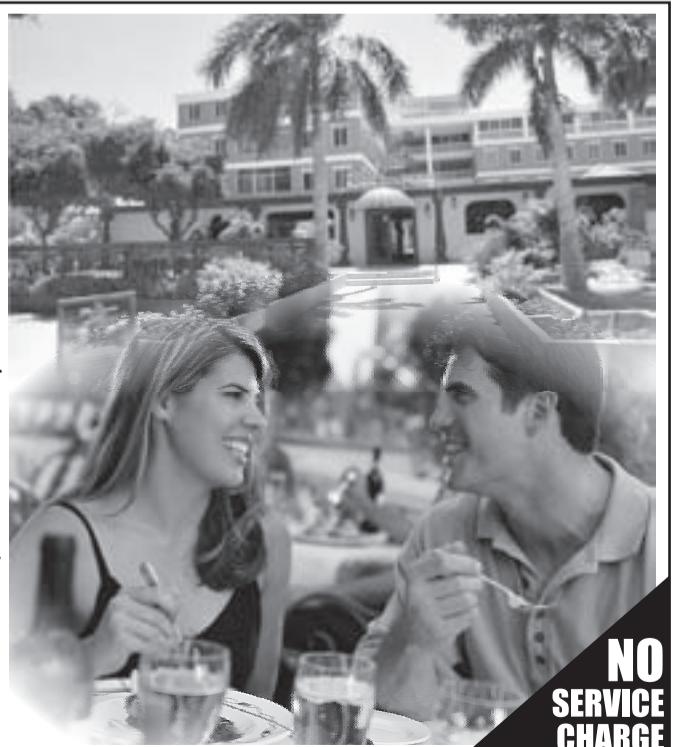
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Syria:

Chemical weapons experts in Damascus to start mission

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Wading into the world spotlight, international inspectors arrived in Damascus on Tuesday to begin the monumental

task of overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons in the middle of a civil war. The inspectors from a Netherlands-based chemical weapons watchdog have

around nine months to complete their mission that calls for finding, dismantling and eliminating President Bashar Assad's estimated 1,000-ton arsenal. Their task has been en-

dorsed by a U.N. Security Council resolution that calls for Syria's chemical stockpile to be scrapped by mid-2014. The deadline is the tightest that the experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have ever faced. An advance team of 19 inspectors and 14 U.N. staff members arrived in Damascus late Tuesday afternoon in a 19-vehicle convoy escorted from the Lebanese border by two Syrian Foreign Ministry representatives. The experts set up a logistics base for its immediate work, the U.N. said in a statement.

Experts at The Hague, where the OPCW is based, said Sunday the inspectors' priority is to reach the first milestone of helping Syria scrap its ability to manufacture chemical weapons by a Nov. 1 deadline, using every means possible.

The destruction mission could include smashing

mixing equipment with sledgehammers, blowing up delivery missiles, driving tanks over empty shells or filling them with concrete, and running machines without lubricant so they seize up and become inoperable. Some of the inspectors will be double-checking Syria's initial disclosure of what weapons and chemical precursors it has and where they are located. Others will begin planning the logistics for visits to every site where chemicals or weapons are reported to be stored.

Within a week, a second group of inspectors is scheduled to arrive and form teams that will fan out to individual locations.

The inspectors' mission was born out of a deadly chemical attack on opposition-held suburbs of Damascus on Aug. 21. The U.S. and its allies accuse the Syrian government of being responsible, while Damascus blames the rebels.

The chemical attack prompted the Obama administration to threaten punitive missile strikes against the Assad regime, touching off weeks of frantic diplomacy that ended with Friday's U.N. resolution. The resolution also endorsed a roadmap for political transition in Syria adopted by key nations in June 2012, and it called for an international peace conference in Geneva to be convened "as soon as possible" to implement it.

The Geneva negotiations have been repeatedly delayed for months, with neither the Syrian regime nor the opposition showing much interest in attending while the war on the ground remains deadlocked. □



A convoy of inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons prepares to cross into Syria at the Lebanese border crossing point of Masnaa, eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. An advance group of 20 inspectors from a Netherlands-based chemical weapons watchdog arrived in Syria on Tuesday to begin their complex mission of finding, dismantling and ultimately destroying an estimated 1,000-ton chemical arsenal.

(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

UN Report: 1,000 Iraqis killed in September

KIM GAMBEL

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — An Iraqi sheik cradled his grandson's tightly wrapped body Tuesday, his face grim and his eyes downcast, trailed by men bearing the coffin of the infant's mother.

The mother and son were killed the day before by a bombing in Baghdad — two among nearly 1,000 Iraqi lives lost to violence in September. The heart-breaking image, captured in an Associated Press photo, illuminates the human tragedy behind the numbers.

Sectarian bloodshed has surged to levels not seen in

Iraq since 2008. More than 5,000 people have been killed since April, when a deadly government raid on a Sunni protest camp unleashed a new round of violence that showed al-Qaida in Iraq is still strong despite years of U.S.-Iraqi offensives against the terror group.

At least 979 people — 887 civilians and 92 soldiers and national policemen — were killed in September, a 22 percent increase from the previous month, the U.N. mission in Iraq said Tuesday. Baghdad was hit hardest, with 418 violent deaths. The U.N. also reported that 2,133 people were wounded nationwide in the relent-

less car bombings, suicide attacks and shootings. The spike reversed a brief decline to 804 in August after the death toll reached 1,057 in July, the highest since June 2008 when 975 people were killed.

By comparison, 3,718 civilians were killed in December 2006, the deadliest month of the war, according to a U.S. military tally.

An influx of U.S. troops, a Shiite militia cease-fire and a Sunni revolt against the extremists among them combined to stop the country's slide toward civil war in 2008.

While violence has never stopped in Iraq, the recent uptick in double-digit daily

death tolls has stunned many Iraqis after several years of relative calm. It also has raised fears that long-dormant Shiite militias could renew their campaign of retaliatory violence. "If the security forces are not capable of protecting us, we will protect ourselves and end the misery," said Hatem Muhsin, who lives in Sadr City, a Shiite enclave in Baghdad.

"The sectarian war has just started." Al-Qaida in Iraq has claimed responsibility for much of the violence, including a string of car bombings that targeted mostly Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad on Monday, killing 55 people. □

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Berlusconi aides deserting him in Italy political crisis

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Many of former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi's fellow lawmakers have begun deserting him in his bid to bring down the government as fallout over his tax-fraud conviction — a rare rebuke to his authority that could save the fragile ruling coalition and its efforts to revive the country's economy.

The unusual defiance of Berlusconi could signal that the three-time former premier's influence is seriously eroding in Italy, especially in the wake of his conviction and four-year prison sentence, which threaten his seat in the Senate. But the 77-year-old billionaire



Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi arrives in his private residence, in Rome. Many of Berlusconi's fellow lawmakers have begun deserting him in his bid to bring down the government.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

media mogul has withstood numerous political setbacks in the past, only to re-emerge strong. Carlo Giovanardi, a Berlusconi stalwart, said Tuesday

that he and many other center-right lawmakers will vote to keep Premier Enrico Letta's five-month-old government afloat. Those votes would boost Letta's

chances of winning a legislative confidence vote on Wednesday that could be pegged to the government's survival.

"We have the numbers — there are more than 40 of us," Giovanardi told reporters. "We are resolute in wanting to maintain the government's equilibrium and that's why we will vote yes" in the confidence vote.

The pressure on Berlusconi to abandon his spoiler strategy grew as the day went on, especially after his political heir and former justice minister, Angelino Alfano, openly defied him. "I remain firmly convinced that all of our party tomorrow must give Letta the confidence vote," Alfano was quoted in Italian news

reports as saying, adding that Berlusconi's Freedom People party should avoid a schism.

Alfano had been serving as interior minister in Letta's government until last week. That was when Berlusconi, unhappy that center-left lawmakers were going to vote Friday in a Senate committee to strip him of his Senate seat because of his conviction, demanded his five Cabinet ministers resign.

The resignations of the ministers convinced Letta that he needed to seek renewed backing in Parliament, setting up Wednesday's showdown.

Some Berlusconi die-hards said they would vote in favor of Letta only if their leader allowed it. □

General: Egypt should keep to transition plan

SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military chief called on the country Tuesday to adhere to the timetable of a political road map that envisions presidential elections by next spring, saying this would allow Egyptians to focus on challenges to national security.

Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi was speaking during a ceremony to honor troops ahead of the national commemoration of Egypt's Oct. 6 crossing of the Suez Canal during the 1973 war with Israel.

The 40th anniversary is on Sunday, when the military plans air shows and other celebrations. Supporters of Mohammed Morsi, the Islamist president whom el-Sissi ousted, are for their part planning protest rallies. The July 3 coup against Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, followed mass demonstrations calling on

him to resign.

The planned protests and fears of renewed violence highlight the turmoil that continues to engulf Egypt and which may threaten to derail the military-backed road map announced after the coup that ends with presidential elections by early next year.

El-Sissi has spoken infrequently since Morsi's ouster, despite massive popularity that positioned him as the country's most prominent leader and raised fears that it may be the beginning of a personality cult. Many have called on el-Sissi to run for president, a prospect his spokesman has denied.

El-Sissi told the audience, which included families of troops killed during the 1973 war and in recent violence, that the armed forces will not support any candidate for the presidency.

"The armed forces will not support any single" candi-

date, el-Sissi said in comments aired on state TV and carried by other private stations. "Everyone has to face the people who will decide ... not the army."

"You people will choose your rulers, and true, you are the ones who get rid of them too," said el-Sissi, a reference to the huge demonstrations that helped push Morsi, as well as his predecessor Hosni Mubarak, from office.

El-Sissi called for "a quick conclusion to the transitional period according to the measures agreed upon in the road-map," according to the official Middle East News Agency. "There must be an accord to quickly return to work, stability and confronting the challenges to Egypt's national security."

An appointed committee is nearly finished with the task of amending the constitution, the first step in the post-July 3 road map. □

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Subsidies, Mideast's oldest recipe for social peace backfiring

KARIN

LAUB

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)

— Sudan's deadly street riots, provoked by a near-doubling of fuel prices, highlight a problem that has become critical across the Middle East — the subsidies that for decades have kept down the cost of basic needs for societies where poverty is rife.

They pose a growing challenge to governments in the region, particularly in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings. Fuel and food subsidies have become increasingly unaffordable, taking huge bites out of national budgets, and international lenders want to see such spending scaled back, but governments fear violent backlash.

The elimination of Sudan's fuel subsidies last week hiked the price of such basics as bread, cooking gas and bus fares. The result was the worst unrest in the capital Khartoum in two decades, with a harsh government response and dozens reported killed.

Many Sudanese worry that their livelihood won't survive without subsidies.

A widowed mother of seven who sells tea and home-made custard on the streets of Khartoum said she has switched from cooking with gas to coal, but that overall "life has become unbearable."

Another vendor who had laid out colorful rings and necklaces on a sidewalk said his main challenge now was paying for transport, school fees and sandwiches for his three children. "There was nothing like this before," the tall, slim man said of Sudan's economic crisis, glancing nervously at a bank guard nearby.

Both vendors spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of getting caught up in the government's crackdown. Critics say the government has mismanaged the economy, using up resources during an oil boom while investing little in education, hospitals or agriculture. Sudan took a further hit with the secession of oil-rich South Sudan in 2011 while fighting rebels

pounds (\$5.60). The case of Sudan, a vast country with one of the world's poorest populations, is perhaps extreme. But the problem is widespread. In 2011, half the world's pre-tax energy subsidies, or \$240 billion, were spent in the region's 19 countries, according to the International Monetary Fund. Subsidies gobble up one-third

going to take these away, even if it means that it will benefit the people who really need it."

Big subsidies were long a part of the Arab world's social contract, buying social peace in the absence of political freedom and economic opportunity. But job creation lagged far behind population growth and helped drive the protests that erupted in 2011,

has tackled the subsidies, seen as a major obstacle to economic recovery. Critics say blanket subsidies benefit the wealthy more than the poor, divert public funds from health, education and welfare and encourage overconsumption and corruption. Subsidized food is often traded on the black market or wasted. Reformers say subsidy cuts should be coupled with



Hassan, a 65 year-old farmer harvests wheat on field in Fayoum, Egypt. Increasingly unaffordable subsidy programs pose a growing challenge across the Middle East and North Africa, with governments caught between demands by international lenders to scale back economically toxic handouts and fears of a popular backlash.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

on three fronts. Faced with empty coffers and spiraling inflation, the government was finally forced to hit subsidies.

A gallon (3.8 liters) of diesel went from eight Sudanese pounds (\$1.81) to 14 pounds (\$3.18); a gallon of gasoline from 12 pounds (\$2.70) to 21 pounds (\$4.70); and a canister of cooking gas from 14 pounds (\$3.20) is now 25

of Egypt's \$84.5 billion budget, according to domestic figures, and the IMF says the Arab world's most populous country spends three times as much on energy subsidies as on education. "Across the Arab world, there is increased addiction to these subsidies," said Farah Halime, editor of the regional blog Rebel Economy. "It's very difficult to tell a nation that we are

toppling rulers in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, igniting civil war in Syria and rattling governments in Jordan and the Gulf.

Many hopes have since been dashed, particularly those for jobs and economic reform. In Egypt, neither President Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, elected in 2012, nor the military that toppled him a year later,

targeted support for the poor and warn that without such a buffer, poverty could increase sharply.

For example, Egypt's official poverty rate of 25 percent of the country's 85 million people could rise to 34 percent without food subsidies, according to a study by the World Food Program and the International Food Policy Research Institute. □

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Striking teachers, police clash in downtown Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Clashes broke out in Rio de Janeiro's busy downtown business district Tuesday as police skirmished with striking schoolteachers.

Teachers pressing for better pay had gathered in front of City Hall, where a vote on Mayor Eduardo Paes' salary proposal was expected. The strikers oppose the proposal, which they say doesn't go far enough to addressing their demands.

Chaos broke out in late afternoon when police officers set off deafening percussion grenades and fired rubber bullets in this densely frequented commercial district. Some main thoroughfares were closed, snarling traffic.

As the percussion grenades exploded outside, several dozen people took shelter in the stately Odeon movie theater, which is



Protestors kick the door of City Hall next to a sign that reads in Portuguese: "In Mourning: Education, what kind of society do we want to form?" during a teacher's strike in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. Teachers opposed to the mayor's proposal to increase teacher's salaries tried to disrupt the proceedings at City Hall. The strikers say the proposal doesn't go far enough to address their demands.

(AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

hosting red carpet events for the Rio Film Festival. Festival officials had said the screenings slated to take place at the Odeon on Tuesday night would be postponed and moved to another theater.

On Monday night, a skirmish between riot police and protesters sent hundreds of festival-goers who had just emerged from the evening's gala screening racing back into the theater to wait out the street skirmishes. Negotiations between the city and the teachers' unions have been acrimonious, and Tuesday was the strike's 46th day. Teachers opposed to the mayor's pay proposal have invaded City Hall trying to disrupt proceedings and police have repeatedly sprayed strikers with clouds of tear gas, rubber bullets and percussion grenades. □

South Korea flexes military muscles at ceremony

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korea displayed its longest-range missile capable of striking all of North Korea and other sophisticated weapons at a massive military parade Tuesday, a display of force meant to show Pyongyang that any provocation would be met with strong retaliation.

It was South Korea's biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in a decade, and the first since North Korea conducted its third atomic test and threatened nuclear war earlier this year.

About 11,000 troops, 190 weapons systems and other equipment and 120 aircraft were featured in the parade at a military airport just south of Seoul. Among

them were GPS-guided, Hyunmu-3 cruise missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) that South Korea developed in recent years. It was the first time the domestically built Hyunmu-3 was publicly shown, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry. President Park Geun-hye said in a speech at the ceremony that South Korea must maintain its strong alliance with the U.S. and establish missile defense and pre-emptive strike capabilities to let North Korea know "the nuclear weapons and missiles it is obsessed with are useless."

"We must build up a strong deterrence against North Korea until it puts down its nuclear weapons program and make a right choice for its own people

and peace on the Korean Peninsula," she said as visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sat nearby. The Korean Peninsula is still officially at state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. troops are deployed in South Korea. Other new weapons on show for the first time Tuesday included the Hyunmu-2 ballistic missile with a range of 300 kilometers (185 miles) and Israeli-made Spike missiles aimed at neutralizing North Korean coastal artillery.

South Korea has deployed the Spike missiles at frontline islands after one of those islands were shelled by North Korea and four people were killed in 2010. "It's a kind of show of force.

North Korea shows off its missiles on national anniversaries. We can understand today's ceremony in the same vein," said Lee Daewoo, a security analyst at the private Sejong Institute near Seoul. "Today is Armed Forces Day, and (South Korea) is clearly showing that it has the capability to punish" North Korea.

He said he expects North Korea to respond angrily to

the ceremony. North Korea typically marks national anniversaries with lavish, choreographed military parades featuring goose-stepping soldiers and arrays of weapons designed to rally public support behind the country's leadership and stoke fear among enemy countries. It's one of the few chances that outsiders can look at North Korea's military and its weapons systems. □

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Secretive Vatican bank takes step to transparency

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican took another step in its efforts to be more financially transparent by publishing a first-ever annual report for the Vatican bank on Tuesday. It comes as Italian prosecutors investigate alleged money-laundering there, a Vatican monsignor remains in detention and the pope himself probes the problems that have brought such scandal to the institution.

Net earnings at the bank, known as the Institute for Religious Works, rose more than four-fold to 86.6 million euros (\$116.95 million) in 2012, the report said. More than 50 million euros of that was given to the pope for his charitable works.

The improvement in earnings was driven by profits made on the value of securities that the bank held and sold — net trading income rose to 51.1 million euros from a loss of 38.2 million euros in 2011.

The picture may not be so rosy for 2013, with rising interest rates cutting into profits and millions of euros earmarked for the IOR's ongoing transparency process, which has involved hiring outside legal, financial and communications experts to revamp its procedures, review its client base and remake its image. "Overall, we expect 2013 to be marked by the extraordinary expenses for the ongoing reform and remediation process, and the effects of rising interest rates," bank president Ernst von Freyberg said in a statement.

He said the publication of the report meets the bank's commitment to providing transparency about its activities.

Aside from the earnings,

the 100-page report published Tuesday provides some fascinating reading about the secretive institution: The IOR in 2012

international norms to fight money laundering and terrorist financing. The Vatican passed Moneyval's inaugural inspection last



People queue to enter the Vatican Museums, at the Vatican. The Vatican took another step in its efforts to be more financially transparent by publishing a first-ever annual report for the Vatican bank on Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

had 41.3 million euros in gold, metals and precious coins, owned a real estate company and was bequeathed two investment properties worth 1.9 million euros. It also made some 25.8 million euros in loans in 2012. The Vatican has long insisted the IOR isn't a bank but a unique financial institution aimed at managing assets for religious or charitable works — a distinction that presumably helped it avoid typical banking regulations. Yet in the past year, the IOR has slowly revealed itself to work very much like a bank, providing asset management services to its clients, earning some 12.2 million euros in fees and commissions for such services in 2012 and making loans.

The Vatican is about to enter a second round of international scrutiny by the Council of Europe's Moneyval committee, which helps countries comply with

year, but evaluators gave the IOR and the Vatican's financial oversight agency poor or failing grades for insufficient controls to ensure that its clients and assets were clean.

The report was released as Rome prosecutors continue to investigate a Vatican accountant, Monsignor Nunzio Scarano, who was arrested in an alleged plot to bring 20 million euros into Italy from Switzerland without declaring it at customs. Scarano is also under investigation in his native Salerno for allegedly laundering money through his IOR account. His lawyer has insisted the money was clean and that he was only trying to help out friends.

The IOR's former top managers, Paolo Cipriani and Massimo Tulli, meanwhile, are under investigation by Rome prosecutors for alleged violations of Italy's anti-money laundering norms. □

Official figures indicating Eurozone unemployment 'may have peaked'

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The eurozone's labor market appears to have stabilized, official figures indicated Tuesday, another sign that the region's economy is recovering from its longest-ever recession.

Though Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, said the unemployment rate across the 17-member eurozone held steady at 12 percent in August, it found the number of people out of work fell for the third month running. That's the first time the region has enjoyed such a run since April 2011.

In total, the number of unemployed dipped by 5,000 to 19.18 million, triggering hopes that the 20 million threshold that many economists had been forecasting this year will not be struck and that the 12.1 percent record high booked in June may not be breached.

"The eurozone's jobless rate is past its peak for the current economic cycle," said Zach Witton, an economist at Moody's Analytics. "However, the unemployment rate will fall only gradually as the weak recovery provides limited support to profit margins, giving companies little incentive to boost hiring."

As usually happens in a recovery, the modest improvement in the labor market has lagged behind the region's emergence from recession by a few months. The economy grew in the second quarter by a modest quarterly rate of 0.3 percent after contracting for six straight quarters, its longest recession since the euro currency was launched in 1999. Most surveys suggest the eurozone expanded further

during the summer months and that the growth won't rely only on Germany, Europe's largest economy. Even Greece, mired in recession for the best part of six years as the global financial crisis morphed into a crippling sovereign debt crisis, is expected to start growing soon.

Hopes for an improvement in the eurozone economy were supported by a closely-watched manufacturing survey released Tuesday.

The purchasing managers' index for the manufacturing sector — a gauge of business activity published by financial information company Markit — was 51.1 points in September. Though down on August's 26-month high of 51.4, the survey points to continuing expansion — anything above the 50 threshold indicates growth.

"This is good news for the eurozone but also for the global economy," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit. "The downturn in demand caused by the region's recession and the uncertainty generated by its debt crisis had cast a shadow over economic recoveries across the globe. But we must not get too carried away." Over the past three years, the eurozone, which has a population of around 330 million, has been the laggard of the world economy as it grappled with a debt crisis that at various times threatened the future of the euro currency itself.

Countries across the region, but mainly in the south, such as Greece, Portugal and Spain, have had to enact tough austerity measures to convince bond market investors that they could get a handle on their public finances. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY



PALM BEACH - What has been widely applauded by opera lovers worldwide since 2006, will now be available in Aruba. Caribbean Cinemas Megaplex 8 at Palm Beach Plaza will present "LIVE from the MET" on the big screen, the opera season transmitted LIVE in HD from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The new season features 10 Live Transmissions with English subtitles, including 4 new productions and some well re-known such as: Tosca and La Boheme. The

season kicks off on Saturday, October 5 at 12:55pm with Eugene Onegin, a new production conducted by Valery Gergiev and starring Anna Netrebko, Piotr Beczala, and Mariusz Kwiecien. An Encore (recorded) presentation of each opera will also be exhibited 10 days after the live transmission. Single Show tickets will be available at Afl. 50 (Afl. 45 for Seniors), and Season Tickets will be available at Afl. 465 (Afl. 415 for Seniors), with taxes included. Met opera stars serve as

hosts for the HD series, conducting live interviews with cast, crew, and production teams, and introducing the popular behind-the-scenes features; altogether the worldwide HD audience is given an unprecedented look at what goes into the staging of an opera at one of the world's great houses. The Met: Live in HD, the world's leading provider of alternative cinema content, is now shown in more than 1,900 theaters in 64 countries, making the Met the only arts institution with

an ongoing global art series of this scale. The Met was the first arts company to experiment as an alternative content provider, beginning on a modest scale in 2006. Since then, its program has grown every season, with more than 12 million tickets sold to date. This HD season's stars include Ildar Abdrazakov, Anna Netrebko Roberto Alagna, Stephanie Blythe, Danielle de Niese, Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Juan Diego Flórez, Elīna Garanča, Vittorio Grigolo,

Jonas Kaufmann, Isabel Leonard, Fabio Luisi, Ambrogio Maestri, Angela Meade, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Susanna Phillips, Luca Pisaroni, Matthew Polenzani, Patricia Racette, Paulo Szot, and Dolora Zajick. For more information and scheduling for "LIVE from the MET" on Aruba, please contact Mayra Ramírez at: mramirez@caribbeanccinemas.com, tel. 787-727-7137 ext. 232; or Sahirra Vishnudat at: sahirraaruba@outlook.com, tel. 011-297-736-2510. □

International Press Swims Laps Of Luxury At The Aruba Marriott



PALM BEACH - From September 25 – 28 the Aruba Marriott hosted five international media from North America including publications EBONY, Black Enterprise, Best Hotels of the

World, International Business Traveler, KelleeSetGo, Homefront Magazine, Islands Magazine and Globe and Mail. Accompanied by Lisa Schwartz and Taylor Cinalli of Diamond PR the

group stayed at Tradewinds Club, Marriott's hotel within a hotel, exclusively accessible for adults only. After sipping from the Patron Mojitos and Dirty Bird welcome cocktails in Marriott's

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Great Room, the journalists enjoyed a sunset dinner at Marriott's beachfront restaurant Simply Fish. On Thursday morning the group took a trip along the North coast with De Palm Tours private jeep safari visiting Aruba's most scenic sites including the caves, Alto Vista, Baby Bridge and the Gold Mine ruins. The afternoon was reserved for spa treatments at the brand new Mandara Spa followed by a spectacular sunset sail with private yacht the Tranquilo. In the evening the ladies dined in bed at Screaming Eagle restaurant and were surprised with a special menu created by Chef Erwin. The 4-course dinner menu was served in "bed", which introduced the press to a new luxurious dinner experience. On Friday morning the press was invited to a private luxury brunch in the resort's governor's suite by General Manager Tom Calame and Hotel Manager Matt Knights. Omelet station, sushi, deluxe salads, hors d'oeuvres and mimosas were on the menu. Afterwards the ladies chose to paddleboard with Vela, while others relaxed at the H2Oasis adult's only pool. The farewell dinner was hosted by Ruth's Chris Steak House in their private dining room, where the group enjoyed sizzling steaks and signature cocktails. The Aruba Marriott thanks Screaming Eagle, De Palm Tours, Tranquilo and Vela Windsurf for their cooperation and hospitality with the "Swim Laps of Luxury" press trip. #lapsofluxury. □

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Walter lands a straight flush at the Casino at the Radisson



PALM BEACH - Walter Heinrich won \$5,014 with a straight flush at the Caribbean Stud Poker at the casino recently. The lucky winner joined the gallery of other table and slot machine winners, as well as daily Mystery Jackpot winners, which get up to \$250 in cash, even without a winning combination.

The Casino at the Radisson offers a great mix of fun promotions. Among most popular, the Free Play Fever, awarding players \$50 in free play, with hourly drawings during evening hours. Weekends are dedicated to Bingo, played on Saturdays and Sundays starting at 1pm, with thou-

sands of dollars in cash prizes. The bingo progressive jackpot is currently worth more than \$35,000 and tickets for a chance to win that amazing bonanza are available for just \$1.

Ladies' Night on Sunday awards 100 points to each lady actively playing with her Player's Club card inserted. The points are available for immediate play. And the casino Poker Room hosts live games every evening from 7:30pm to 4:00am. Open from 1pm to 4am and on Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 4am, the Casino at the Radisson welcome guests for a fun experience under its star lit dome. □



At Aruba Beach Club: Linda Nocon honored by ATA

PALM BEACH - Recently, Linda Nocon from New Jersey was honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill after returning to Aruba for the 20 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a

token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive.

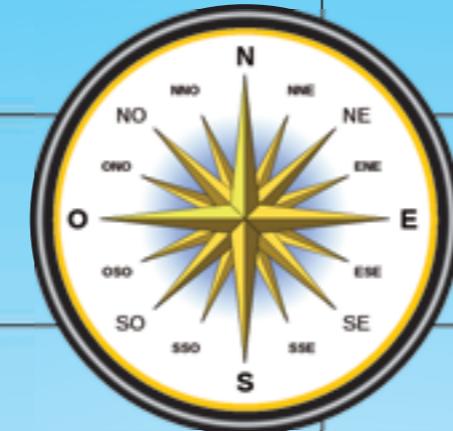
Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Aruba Beach

Club Resort. Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. □



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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

Rays back in playoffs after 5-2 win at Texas

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) --

For Evan Longoria and the Tampa Bay Rays, this was a fitting way to get back into the playoffs.

They earned their postseas-
son berth in the final game of the regular season for the second time in three years, needing an extra game to do so this time.

And their 5-2 victory in the AL wild-card tiebreaker Monday night came against the Texas Rangers, the team that knocked the Rays out of the playoffs their last two trips.

"It feels really good to be able to leave here celebrating instead of with our heads down," said Longoria, who had a two-run homer among his three hits and scored another run.

"It sure feels good to get them after so many times they've knocked us out," Ben Zobrist said.

David Price (10-8), the reigning AL Cy Young winner, threw his fourth complete game this season. He struck out four and walked one, and even picked off two runners while allowing seven hits, striking out four and walking one. He threw 81 of 118 pitches for strikes. The Rays face another must-win situation Wednes-



Tampa Bay Rays' David Price and Jose Molina (28) celebrate after defeating Texas Rangers 5-2 in their American League wild-card tiebreaker baseball game Monday, Sept. 30, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

day night at Cleveland in the AL wild-card game, Tampa's third game in three cities in a four-day stretch. The winner faces Boston in the division series. In the visitor clubhouse at Rangers Ballpark, the Rays were chanting "One More Game! One More Game!" while spraying each other with champagne.

"We feel like we've played the same game in the last week like 12 times," Zobrist said. "It just feels like every game is that important. ... Let's just get to the next game and we'll worry about that then."

Tampa Bay won eight of 10 games to get into the first wild-card tiebreaker in the majors since 2007.

Texas had to win seven in a row to force an extra game. Eight was too much for the Rangers, whose season ended in their 163rd game for the second year in a row - this time without even getting to the playoffs.

"What goes through my mind? We're going home," third baseman Adrian Beltre said. "We expected to be in the playoffs. But we didn't play well enough."

Continued on Page 21

Govt. shutdown puts service academy sports on hold

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army, Navy and Air Force might be forced to skip their football games next weekend because of the budget impasse in Congress.

The Defense Department temporarily suspended sports competition at the service academies Tuesday as a result of the partial government shutdown.

A Pentagon spokesman,

Army Col. Steve Warren, said the decision was being reviewed by lawyers to determine whether the funds used for such activities are congressionally appropriated. In the meantime, the suspension put a pair of college football games in jeopardy: Army at Boston College, and Air Force at Navy. The U.S. Naval Academy said in a statement that a decision will be made by noon Thursday

about whether the Midshipmen will play the Air Force. Navy's football team did practice Tuesday. Air Force associate athletic director Troy Garnhart said travel for his sports teams was being halted — including for Saturday's football game at Annapolis. A scheduled news conference with Air Force football coach Troy Calhoun and players was canceled Tuesday "due to the government

shutdown," according to a statement. The football rivalry between Navy and Air Force dates back to 1960, and they have played each other every year since 1972. Saturday's game is sold out.

As for Army against Boston College, B.C. athletic director Brad Bates said: "We have been in close communication with Army athletics officials regarding the potential impact of the gov-

ernment shutdown on this Saturday's football game. Obviously our intention is to exhaust all possibilities to play the game and we will communicate the information promptly as soon as we have resolution." The U.S. Military Academy issued a statement saying, "Sporting competitions can still be at risk but are being assessed by our chain of command and Department of the Army." □

No. 1s Djokovic, Serena advance at China Open

BEIJING (AP) — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic cruised while Serena Williams was made to fight for her win in the China Open on Tuesday.

Djokovic put away Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-3 in the first round, while Williams lost her serve twice to 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone before prevailing 6-4, 7-5 in the second round.

Djokovic's run of 100 weeks at the top of the ATP rankings is in danger this week from Rafael Nadal, who defeated Santiago Giraldo of Colombia 6-2, 6-4. Nadal will retake No. 1 if he reaches the final.

Williams found herself having to grind against Schiavone in their second set, losing her serve twice and having to break back each time. Schiavone had three set points at 5-3 but Williams won 15 of the last 17 points to survive.

Still, Schiavone, who won only one game off Williams at the U.S. Open, won her most against Williams in eight years.

"It didn't surprise me," Williams said. "I was definitely more surprised that I played so well in the open, but it was a different circumstance — even though the scoreline looked much easier at the open, it wasn't an easy match. But as for Francesca playing so well today, I wasn't surprised about that."

Meanwhile, Venus Williams, a wild-card recipient like Schiavone, fell to Sabine Lisicki of Germany for the first time in four years, 6-1, 6-2. Lisicki didn't face a break point and broke Venus three times. Djokovic will take on Fernando Verdasco in the second round after the Spaniard beat Indian qualifier Somdev Devvarman 7-6 (6), 6-3.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reaches for the ball as he plays against Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic during the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013.

Associated Press
Nadal's second-round opponent will be Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany. In other men's matches, fifth-seeded Richard Gasquet of France beat Florian Mayer of Germany 6-3,

7-6 (2); sixth-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland overcame Andreas Seppi of Italy 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, and eighth-seeded John Isner of United States beat local Di Wu 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3 after nearly two hours. Former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki beat Monica Niculescu of Romania 6-3, 6-1 to remain on course to face Williams in the quarterfinals. □

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BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees passed for 413 yards and four touchdowns as the Saints turned a clash of unbeaten NFL teams into a lopsided affair, beating the Miami Dolphins 38-17 on Monday.

"I felt like we found our rhythm," Brees said. "Everytime we touched the ball it felt like we were going to go down and score points."

Two of Brees' touchdowns went to Jimmy Graham for 27 and 43 yards as the tight end had at least 100 yards receiving for the third straight game.

Brees' other scoring strikes went to Benjamin Watson and Darren Sproles, who also rushed for a touchdown.

"We mix up where we put him alot to try to find him favorable matchups," Brees said of Sproles. "It goes that way for all our guys."

Sproles' 5-yard scoring run on the game's opening series gave the Saints a lead they would not relinquish en route to their first 4-0 start since their Super Bowl championship season of 2009. The Saints started last season with four losses.

"We like this a lot better," Brees said of the 4-0 start. "Everything that could have gone wrong for us went wrong. Fortunately we're having the ball bounce our way this year. We're playing good football."

Miami quarterback Ryan Tannehill passed for 249 yards and a touchdown to Charles Clay, but his four turnovers on a fumble and three interceptions hurt the Dolphins (3-1). □



New Orleans Saints tight end Jimmy Graham (80) pulls in a touchdown reception over Miami Dolphins cornerback Jamar Taylor (22) in the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Monday, Sept. 30, 2013.

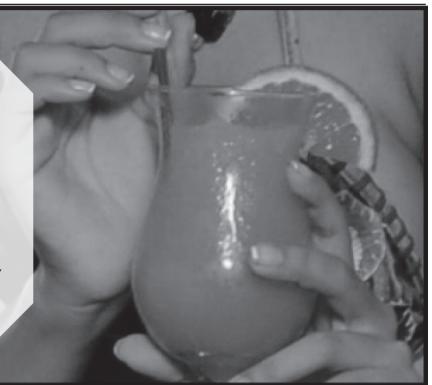
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Jordan: In his prime, he could beat LeBron, others

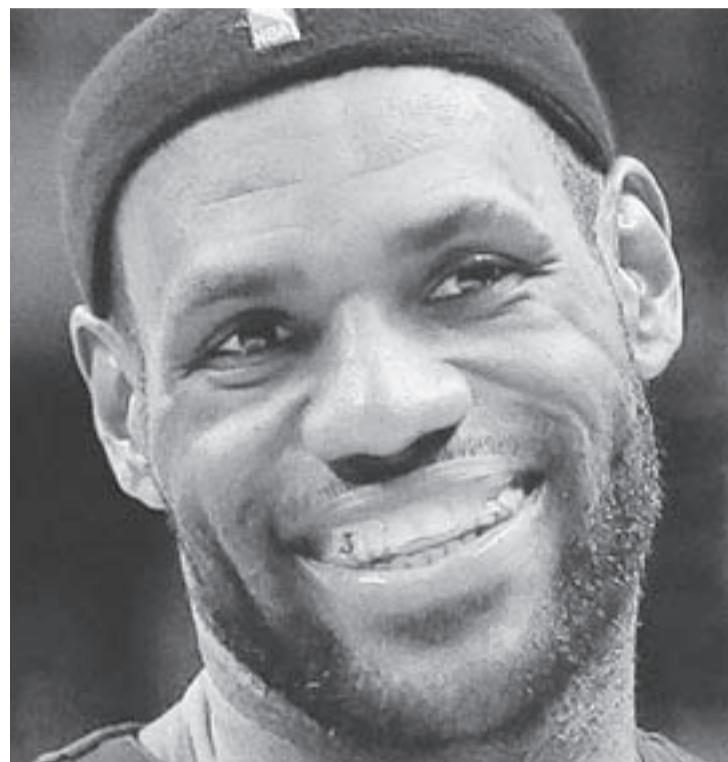
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

(AP)—Michael Jordan believes he could beat LeBron James in a one-on-one basketball game when he was in his prime.

He's not sure about Kobe Bryant.

In a video promoting the NBA 2K14 video game being released on Tuesday, Jordan said there's a long list of players he would've liked to have played one-on-one — Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Julius Erving, Carmelo Anthony, Dwyane Wade, Bryant and James, who dons the cover of this year's game.

"I don't think I would lose," Jordan said in the video, before smiling and adding, "other than to Kobe Bryant because he steals all of my moves." □



At left is a June 16, 2013 file photo showing LeBron James. At right is an Oct. 2, 2012 file photo showing Michael Jordan. Jordan believes he could beat James in a one-on-one basketball game when he was in his prime.

Associated Press

Rays

Continued on Page 18

While the Rangers had a last-week surge to extend their regular season, they were done in by a 5-15 start to September after beginning the final month with a two-game lead in the AL West.

"We just didn't get it done. I've got no excuse for that," manager Ron Washington said. Texas had beaten the Rays in the AL division series in 2010 and 2011 on way to its only two World Series. The Rangers then lost to Baltimore in the first AL wild-card game last October after another late-season slide.

The return of All-Star slugger Nelson Cruz from his 50-game drug suspension wasn't enough for Texas. Cruz, who had 27 homers and 76 RBIs in 108 games before his suspension, was 0 for 4 with a strikeout while

batting sixth as the designated hitter. When he grounded out to short to end the game, Price and Longoria locked eyes before embracing to start the celebration.

When Price woke up Monday, all he could think about was throwing a complete game, then getting that last out and turning straight to Longoria.

"You're probably supposed to go to your catcher first, but for what he's done for us and what he's done for me personally," Price said. The first four hitters in the game against Rangers rookie left-hander Martin Perez (10-6) combined for three singles and a walk, and yet the Rays still didn't have a run.

Desmond Jennings, in his first start in more than a week after left hamstring tightness, hit the game's first pitch down the left-field line. He was thrown out trying to stretch the hit to a double when Craig Gentry



Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria doubles during the sixth inning of an American League wild-card tiebreaker baseball game against the Texas Rangers Monday, Sept. 30, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

made a strong throw. Wil Myers walked on four pitches. Consecutive singles by Zobrist and Longoria loaded the bases and Delmon Young hit a sacrifice fly to push a run across.

Jennings had a lead-off walk in the third, and there were two outs before Longoria hit a drive to right-center that landed in the Rangers bullpen. After Perez struck out Zo-

brist to start the sixth, the eighth consecutive batter he retired, Alexi Ogando gave up a double to Longoria, who scored on a double by pinch-hitter David DeJesus for a 4-1 lead. □



In the past they would kill the messenger who delivered news that king did not want to hear. Tough job, fortunately, this doesn't happen today. Or does it? With the declaration of helping patients, doctors try to eliminate your body signs (messages) with drugs. When consulting an allopathic doctor the first thing investigated is to see if you have a disease. If not, they may test your blood and identify values that they think will cause a disease.

With higher than normal cholesterol numbers, cholesterol lowering drugs are frequently prescribed. Is this the best thing to do? Could it be that the remedy may be worse than the disease?

Cholesterol lowering drugs, known as statins are proving to be killers. Documents indicate some senior executives of German pharmaceutical maker Bayer, knew its anti-cholesterol drug Baycol was causing illness and death long before pulling it off the market. It produces a side effect called rhabdomyolysis

Cholesterol, the Good and the Bad

which causes severe pain and muscle weakness. Serious cases can shut down the kidneys and cause paralysis or death. During other drug studies, test patients have committed suicide. In fact, suicide is a stated possible risk from taking cholesterol lowering medicine. Why? Lipoproteins, which are attached to cholesterol, provide a means by which toxins including, heavy metals, solvent toxins, pesticides, and petro-chemicals can be removed from your brain and nerves. As cholesterol falls, less lipoproteins are available lowering your body's ability to remove these poisons.

For natural physicians, cholesterol is not bad. Hydroxy sterols are found in both animal and plant life. Cholesterol, a complicated form of alcohol is the main sterol of higher life forms. With the exception of brain and red blood cells, all cells in your body are capable of synthesizing or producing cholesterol. Cholesterol provides strength for cell walls; a way to use other sterols and every day, cholesterol is converted into bile acid, which helps protect from and dissolve gall stones.

In your blood stream cholesterol contains lipoproteins.

These proteins carry antioxidants such as vitamin E, beta carotene, and CoQ10 that help protect you from cancer. When

cholesterol is naturally low or forced low with drugs, cancer risks rises because protection is reduced.

When a clinical nutritionist sees a high test value for cholesterol we look to see what caused your body to increase cholesterol to help protect your brain and nerves. If fat-soluble poisons are present, changing what you do or don't eat can help remove these "bad fats." With the poison gone, cells stop making excess cholesterol for protection.

So what don't we eat? Don't eat sugar, especially alcohol or any of the growing number of products with high fructose corn syrup. Stop all fried, salty, refined or processed foods, fatty dairy products or fatty meats. When we tell patients this, many tell us we have just eliminated everything they eat. In fact we have just described the Standard American or Aruban Diet (SAD).

Ok, what do we eat? Fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, but not pork, whole grains like brown rice oats or quinoa, a Peruvian supergrain. Wheat is not the best choice for many people because of allergies and gluten intolerance. Fish that swim constantly in deep water are loaded with "good" HDL cholesterol which is needed to manufacture some very wonderful hormones, like sex hormones.

Medicinal oils packed

with HDL include: olive, evening primrose, black currant, flax, safflower and soy. Herbs that lower LDL/triglycerides (bad cholesterol) are Shiitake mushrooms, cayenne, ginger, cat's claw, garlic and turmeric.

"Good cholesterol" producing foods which include essential fatty acids (EFA) rich in Omega 3, 6 and 9 in the correct proportions have changed with modern diets. Most of us are not getting enough Omega 3's and some of us are not getting enough of omega 3 and 6. Supplementing with Flax oil or Omega fish oils is more important than ever.

Lecithin is good oil I consider a basic, especially for protecting the brain. Make sure you only use fish oils certified to be free of toxins like Mercury.

Eat smaller meals, especially before bed.

While you sleep, the stomach also sleeps and food does not digest properly. Want to get all this under control quickly? Eat only brown rice for three weeks. Nothing else! Include lots of water and moderate exercise. It's always best to do a cleansing diet like this with the supervision of a clinical nutritionist.

Get the point! Not all cholesterol is bad. Cholesterol lowering drugs and their known side effects are not the only choice. We need good cholesterol to protect our brains and nerves. Changes in

diet and lifestyle can naturally help control not only "bad" cholesterol, but you might find improvement with symptoms of high blood pressure, arthritis, and diabetes. Call us for a full evaluation of the good and the bad of your health. Let us teach you how to turn the "ugly" into "beautiful!"

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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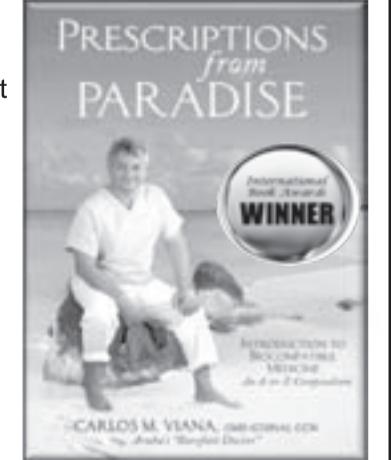
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Scribd, HarperCollins offer e-book subscriptions

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) --

Online document-sharing site Scribd is taking a page from Netflix's success story as it sets out to create the world's largest subscription service for digital books.

The opening chapter in Scribd's quest begins Tuesday with the introduction of an e-book subscription service that will boast thousands of titles published by HarperCollins before July 2012. HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corp., becomes the first of the five largest U.S. publishers to join a service vying to create an alternative to buying individual titles.

Scribd will charge \$9 per month for a service that offers unlimited access to most of HarperCollins' back catalog, as well as an assortment of other books from smaller publishers. Recent best sellers from HarperCollins aren't included in the subscription service, although customers will be able to buy new titles individually on Scribd's site.

"I feel we are moving into new uncharted waters, but that's what innovating and reading is all about," HarperCollins CEO Brian Murray said in an interview. "I feel like this is the right deal with the right partner at the right time and we are going to learn."

With their personal log-in,

subscribers throughout the world will be able to browse through books using Apple Inc.'s iPhone and iPad, mobile devices running on Google Inc.'s Android software and any personal computer with a Web browser. As long as they are logged in, subscribers will be able to stop reading a book on one device and pick up where they left off on another.

"For power readers, this is going to be like a dream come true," predicted Scribd CEO Trip Adler. "We think this could really change the book publishing's business model and change people's reading behavior."

In the process, Scribd could help publishers cultivate an alternative to the electronic books stores run by Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc. and Google Inc.

Unlike those technology powers, Scribd is still small. Adler, 29, has raised \$26 million in venture capital since he started the San Francisco company six years ago to help his father post a paper about neurosurgery online.

Scribd began testing its subscription service with a few small book publishers earlier this year. Since then, Scribd says the number of subscribers has been increasing by about 60 percent each month, although it won't disclose



In this Monday, Sept. 30, 2013 photo, Scribd CEO Trip Adler, left, and CTO and co-founder Jared Friedman pose for photographs at their office in San Francisco..

Associated Press

how many paying customers it has. Scribd says it has 80 million users who visit its site to read an eclectic mix of books and documents that include research papers, essays and legal briefs.

HarperCollins and authors will be paid based on how much their books are read under a complicated formula, Adler said. He declined to provide more specifics about the financial arrangements.

Scribd is trying to create the book industry's version of Netflix Inc.'s online video service, which has attracted more than 37 million subscribers who pay \$8 per month to watch a wide selection of movies and TV shows on any device with

an Internet connection. Digital subscriptions also are winning loyal fans on music services run by Pandora Media Inc. and Spotify.

The popularity of those services has made it clear that subscriptions are one of the most powerful ways to hook consumers and create a recurring stream of revenue, said Forrester Research analyst James McQuivey.

Digital subscriptions also open a valuable window into people's preferences and habits, information that can be used to tailor and market other products. Scribd is sharing the data gathered about its subscribers with HarperCollins. "This is going to help us

make even better publishing and marketing decisions for our authors," HarperCollins' Murray said.

Although a relatively small percentage of the population are book lovers, McQuivey said those that are tend to be college graduates with above-average incomes - a compelling demographic for a subscription service that is also looking to sell content to own, too.

"These are people willing to spend a tremendous amount on books," McQuivey said. "These are people who will stay at home to read a best seller instead of going out with friends on a Friday night."

Adler said he believes Scribd's subscription service eventually could produce \$1 billion in annual revenue, particularly if other big publishers sign on. HarperCollins' major rivals are Hachette, Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, and Penguin Random House.

At least two other startups are getting into e-book subscriptions, too. Oyster recently launched an invitation-only service that charges \$10 per month for unlimited access to a selection of about 100,000 e-books. EReatah is testing a more limited service that lets its subscribers read up to two books for \$15 per month or up to four books for \$30 per month. □

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Markets rise even as US government shutdown starts

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors stayed calm on the first day of a partial shutdown of the U.S. government Tuesday and sent the stock market modestly higher.

A long-running dispute in Washington over President Barack Obama's health care law caused a deadlock over the U.S. budget, forcing about 800,000 federal workers off the job and suspending all but essential services. With the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and Democratic-controlled Senate locked in a stalemate, it was unclear how long a temporary bill needed to finance government activities would be stalled.

Despite the political rancor, investors didn't push the panic button. That suggests that, at least for now, they aren't anticipating that the stalemate will cause enough disruption in the economy to threaten a gradual U.S. recovery and a four-year bull run in the stock market.

"The trend of the economy appears to be in a positive direction," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial Group. "Unless this really gets ugly, we think the markets should start to look

ahead to what we believe should be better economic data over the next six to 12 months."

In the latest encouraging news on the economy, a private industry group reported Tuesday that U.S. manufacturing expanded at the fastest pace since April 2011 last month on stronger production and hiring.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 62.03 points, or 0.4 percent, to 15,191.70. The Standard & Poor's 500

index gained 13.45 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,695.00. The Nasdaq composite rose 46.50 points, or 1.2 percent, to 3,817.98.

All ten sectors of the S&P 500 rose, led by gains in health care and technology.

Merck helped lift the health care sector. The drugmaker's stock rose \$1.13, or 2.4 percent, to \$48.74 after it announced plans to cut another 8,500 jobs as part of a plan to reduce its annual costs by about \$2.5

billion by the end of 2015.

The technology sector was given a boost by Apple, which gained \$11.21, or 2.4 percent, to \$487.90, after billionaire investor Carl Icahn tweeted about his dinner meeting with Apple's CEO Tim Cook. Icahn, who said he has invested \$2 billion in Apple, is pushing for the company to spend \$150 billion buying its own stock.

"I feel very strongly that this should be done," Icahn told CNBC in an interview.

"It's a no-brainer."

The Apple board pledged in April to spend \$60 billion buying back its stock through the end of 2015. About \$18 billion of that commitment had been exhausted through June.

The S&P 500 index has fallen 2 percent since climbing to a record on Sept. 18, when the Federal Reserve surprised investors by saying it would continue with its economic stimulus. The index has fallen seven out of eight days leading up to the partial government shutdown.

"We're not jumping in with both feet but we're selectively putting money to work," said Joseph Quinlan, chief market strategist for U.S. Trust Bank of America Private Wealth Management. "On the other side of the government shutdown, you've got continued support from the Fed and a global economy that's rebounding."

Many investors still predict that the budget fight will be resolved before it spills over into a dispute about raising the nation's borrowing limit. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said last week that the government would run out of borrowing authority by roughly Oct. 17.

The last time the borrowing limit, or debt ceiling, issue came up in August 2011, it led to a downgrade of the United States' credit rating by Standard & Poor's. The Dow went through nearly three weeks of triple-digits moves almost daily shortly thereafter.

"To some extent investors are conditioned to a certain amount of drama and if we can get the drama behind us quickly it won't be a big deal," said Dean Junkans, Chief Investment Officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "If this goes beyond the middle of next week, the market will get increasingly more worried about the debt ceiling."

In other stock trading, the Russell 2000, an index of small-company stocks, rose to a record level, a sign that investors are still willing to buy riskier assets despite the government slowdown. □



Trader Jonathan Corpina works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investors stayed calm on the first day of a partial shutdown of the U.S. government Tuesday and sent the stock market modestly higher.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Merck to restructure; lay off 8,500 workers

KATIE THOMAS
© 2013 New York Times

The pharmaceutical company Merck announced Tuesday that it would lay off 8,500 employees, cut \$2.5 billion in costs over the next two years and undertake a restructuring of its troubled research and development unit, which has suffered several major setbacks in recent years.

The company also announced that it was abandoning plans to move from Whitehouse Station, N.J., to a new headquarters and would instead consolidate its operations at an existing facility in Kenilworth, N.J.. In a statement, Merck's chief executive, Kenneth C. Frazier, said the actions were designed to make

the company more competitive and "better positioned to drive innovation and to more effectively commercialize medicines and vaccines for the people who need them."

The actions will significantly reshape one of the world's largest drug companies: Together with previously announced layoffs of 7,500 employees, Tuesday's announcement will reduce the company's global workforce of 81,000 employees by about 20 percent, Merck said. The cost cuts are expected to be completed by the end of 2015, with \$1 billion in reductions coming by the end of 2014, the company said.

Investors responded posi-

tively to the news: Shares of Merck rose 3 percent in the first minutes after the market opened.

Tuesday's announcement follows a series of major research setbacks in the company's late-stage clinical pipeline that had analysts to question Merck's direction. A week ago, the Food and Drug Administration rejected its application for an anticipated anesthesia drug, sugammadex, citing concerns about a hypersensitivity study in patients, and this year the agency rejected an application for a new sleep drug, suvorexant. In that case, the FDA indicated that it would eventually approve the drug in a different dosage. Merck also

disappointed investors this year when it announced that it would delay its application for another promising drug, the osteoporosis treatment, odanacatib.

In March, Merck hired a new research and development director, Dr. Roger M. Perlmutter, the former research head of Amgen. The company also had trouble holding onto sales of existing products: Merck's profit fell by half in the second quarter of this year, due mainly to competition from generic alternatives to older medicines.

"I think this is consistent with what everybody else has done in the industry," said Les Funtleyder, a strategist at Poliwogg, a New York investment firm. □



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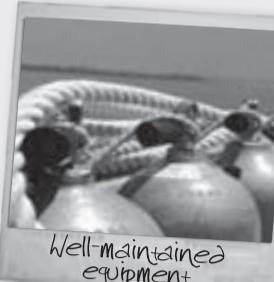
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Icahn pressuring Apple to spend \$150B buying stock

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Activist investor Carl Icahn is pressuring Apple to spend \$150 billion buying back its own stock, a target that would more than double the amount that the company's board authorized in a previous attempt to placate frustrated shareholders.

Icahn took to the Internet and the TV airwaves Tuesday to make it clear that he believes Apple Inc. isn't doing nearly enough to boost its stock price, which has fallen by 30 percent from its peak in September 2012. The slump has turned Apple's stock into a bargain, Icahn said on the financial news channel CNBC, making it a "no-brainer" for the maker of the iPhone and iPad to pour more money into its shares.

The Apple board pledged in April to spend \$60 billion buying back its stock through the end of 2015. About \$18 billion of that commitment had been exhausted through June. Icahn went public with his demands after making his case with Apple CEO Tim Cook in a Monday dinner hosted at his New York apartment. The face-to-face conversation came seven weeks after Icahn, a billionaire who has built his fortune by investing in out-of-favor companies, disclosed that he had bought a significant stake in Apple and signaled he would be campaigning for changes. Monday's three-hour meeting was "cordial," according to the often-confrontational Icahn, although he said the mood got "testy" when Apple's chief financial officer, Peter Oppenheimer, ex-

pressed misgivings about asking the board to reconsider how much the Cupertino, California, company should be spending on its own stock.

"I said, 'So what? The board is not God,'" Icahn said during an interview on the financial news channel CNBC. "The board should be listening to what their shareholders want."

Icahn said Apple agreed to get back in touch with him in three weeks.

Apple spokesman Steve Dowling declined to comment.

"I feel very strongly about this," Icahn told CNBC. "I can't promise you the stock will go up and I can't promise you they are going to do the buyback, but I can promise you that I am not going away until they hear a lot more from me concerning this."

Icahn, 77, didn't say what he will do if Apple rejects his ideas. In past investments, Icahn has spearheaded shareholder rebellions aimed at ousting corporate boards who spurn him. Icahn told CNBC that he believes Apple's board is smart and praised Cook for the job he has done since he succeeded company co-founder Steve Jobs as CEO two years ago.

Icahn believes the company's stock will eventually soar again and cited consumer loyalty to Apple's brand.

He considers Apple's shares currently as cheap as Netflix Inc.'s stock when he acquired a nearly 10 percent stake in the Internet video subscription last year for an average price of about \$58 per share. Netflix's stock is now trading above \$320, reaping Icahn a gain of about \$1.5 billion. □

US manufacturing sees best pace in 2½ years

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — US factory activity expanded last month at the fastest pace in 2 ½ years, an encouraging sign that manufacturing could lift economic growth and hiring in the coming months. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade

cates growth. Manufacturers added jobs last month at the fastest pace in more than a year and ramped up production, the survey showed. They also received new orders at a healthy pace, though slower than in August. U.S. factories are showing signs of picking up after slumping earlier this



A covered vehicle sits in part of the new paint shop at Chrysler's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. The Institute for Supply Management issues its U.S. manufacturing index for September on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

group of purchasing managers, said Tuesday that its manufacturing index rose in September to 56.2, the highest since April 2011. That's up from 55.7 in August and the fourth straight increase in the index. A reading above 50 indi-

year. A modest recovery in housing and strong auto sales are pushing up demand for steel and other metals, auto parts, furniture and appliances.

Economists said the strong figures suggest that the annual growth rate in the

July-September quarter could be healthier than current forecasts of about 2 percent. The index has averaged 55.8 in the past three months, up from 50.2 in the April-June quarter. And the strength at factories has the potential to set the stage for even faster growth in the October-December quarter. Some analysts are forecasting growth at an annual rate of up to 3 percent.

"Another stronger than expected showing," Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, a forecasting firm, said. "The data unambiguously point to a pick-up in the trend in manufacturing output growth."

Manufacturers also kept their stockpiles steady after cutting them for two months. Adding workers and keeping supplies on hand are signs of increased confidence and higher production ahead, economists noted.

Still, the growth at factories could be offset by the partial government shutdown that began Tuesday. Late Monday, Congress and the White House couldn't agree on a spending measure to keep the government open. □

Dell buyout deal gets regulators' approval

Brian Gaar

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN, Texas -- Dell Inc. said Tuesday that federal regulators have signed off on the company's \$24.9 billion buyout deal, clearing one of the last remaining barriers on the computer maker's path toward becoming a private company.

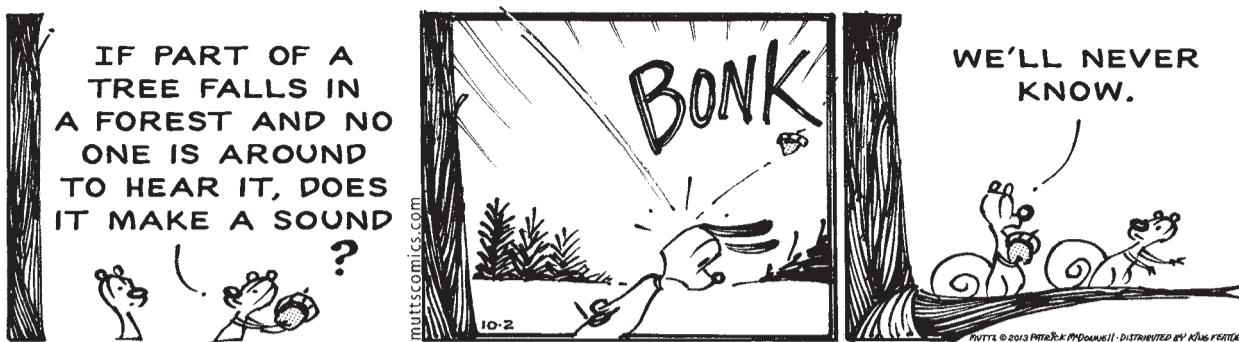
The buyout offer, led by company founder and CEO Michael Dell and his financial partner Silver Lake Partners, has received

"all necessary pre-merger regulatory clearances," Dell Inc. said in a news release. The company is now expected to complete the buyout by Nov. 1, the end of Dell Inc.'s fiscal third quarter.

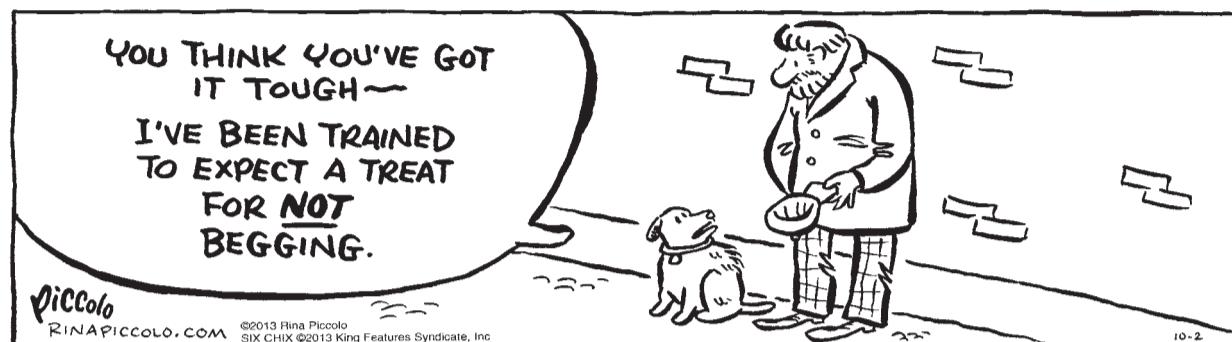
After a lengthy battle, Dell Inc. shareholders overwhelmingly voted in September to accept the Michael Dell-led buyout. The approval came after months of opposition led by billionaire investor Carl Icahn.

Icahn engaged in a campaign against the buyout, criticizing both Dell Inc.'s board and Michael Dell's ability as a leader. For part of the summer, Icahn tried to rally enough opposition to threaten the deal. But Michael Dell and Silver Lake sweetened their offer and negotiated with the board to change the voting rules to ease the approval process. The final deal was for \$13.75 per share, plus a 13-cent special dividend. □

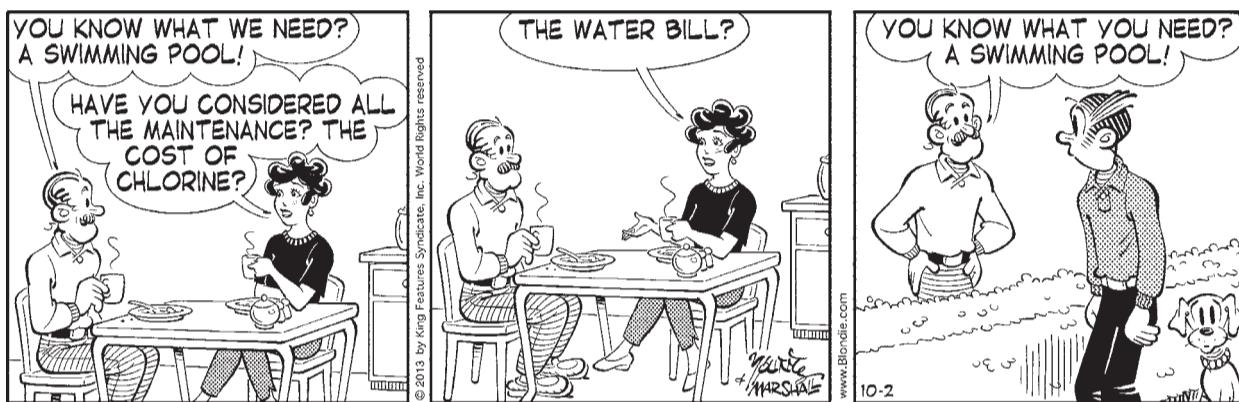
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2	5	9	3	8														
3		4														2		
8					1											3		
7					6											5		
9	5	6	8	4												1		
1	2	3														6		
																2		
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																7	1	
																		10/02

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	8	5	1	7	4	6	2	3										
3	4	2	8	6	5	9	1	7										
1	7	6	3	2	9	4	5	8										
5	6	3	2	4	8	7	9	1										
4	2	1	9	5	7	8	3	6										
7	9	8	6	3	1	5	4	2										
2	1	7	5	9	6	3	8	4										
8	5	4	7	1	3	2	6	9										
6	3	9	4	8	2	1	7	5										

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13					
14						15					16								
17						18					19								
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51	52	53									54								
55						56						57	58	59					
60			61	62							63								
64			65								66								
67			68								69								

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/2/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ZEST	ADAMS	STAG
EACH	LIVER	TIDE
TRUE	MAIN	STREAM
ALL	POND	HARMS
PHONE	POI	
PITIED	HERNIA	
ADULT	SHEEN	LID
TART	CLEAR	ALSO
SHE	GRANT	SKULL
OSPREY	CHISEL	
RAW	POINT	
SCRUB	DEAN	RAY
LOANSHARKS	BABA	
ACME	IDIOT	ITEM
MAPS	MOPES	TEDS

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10/2/13

4	Katmandu resident
5	Interweave
6	Allan Poe
7	Bide one's time
8	Leprechaun
9	Witty reply
10	Breaks in a child's school day
11	Severe; stern
12	Jagged
13	Egyptian dam
21	arrived; isn't here yet
23	Owner's paper
25	Knox & Worth
26	Overly proper
27	Tardy
28	Elderly
29	Closest planet to Earth
32	Brusque
34	Blacken
35	Hardy cabbage
36	Get rid of
38	Moves to another place
50	Snail's tentacle
52	Bert's buddy
53	Regretting
54	Banquet
56	List of dishes
57	Change from time to time
58	Finds a total
59	In case
60	Curved bone

'Doctor's Notebook': into the heart (and other body parts) of old Russia

MIKE HALE

© 2013 New York Times

"A Young Doctor's Notebook" stands out on American television simply for being a serious adaptation of serious literature. Shakespeare aside, where have we seen that this year? Perhaps only in HBO's "Parade's End," an adaptation of the novels by Ford Madox Ford, unless you count "Game of Thrones" or "Under the Dome."



In an undated handout photo, Daniel Radcliffe and Jon Hamm in the series "A Young Doctor's Notebook." The series follows the life of a Russian medical school graduate dispatched in 1916 to a distant country hospital, where he conducts gruesome surgeries in primitive conditions, rails against the backwardness of the peasants and lives in terror of killing his patients through inexperience.

(OVATION via The New York Times)

But "Notebook," whose four half-hour episodes begin Wednesday night on Ovation, has other, earthier claims to distinction. Where else will you see Don Draper and Harry Potter taking a bath together in an antique metal tub?

Based on an early, loosely connected, autobiographical series of short stories from the 1920s by the Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov, the series (a second season has been commissioned by Sky Arts) was conceived by the British producer Clelia Mountford and was made because of the interest of its stars, Jon Hamm of "Mad Men" and Daniel Radcliffe of the Harry Potter films.

Bulgakov's stories are episodes in the life of a medical school graduate dispatched in 1916 to a distant country hospital, where he conducts gruesome surgeries in primitive conditions, rails against the backwardness of the peas-

ants, pines for the bright lights (or just the electricity) of Moscow and lives in terror of killing his patients through inexperience. The show crams incidents from at least seven stories into its two hours, emphasizing the grotesque and comic at the expense of the melancholy and satirical. Written, directed and produced by a number of people who worked on the IFC series "The Increasing-

ly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret," it's polished, manic, funny and a bit thin; visually, it's like a toned-down version of the comic-book expressionism of Terry Gilliam ("Brazil").

But the writers hit on one idea that sounds dicey but turned out to be interesting. To capture the stories' retrospective tone, they created the character of an older, wiser, but morphine-addicted version of the doctor (Hamm), who relives the stories by literally accompanying his younger self (Radcliffe) as a combination guide and scold, alternately contemptuous, compassionate and oblivious.

The two actors are wonderful in their scenes together (their half-foot difference in height can be excused as a metaphor for growth), and Hamm, especially, displays bountiful intelligence, depth of feeling and mordant humor. □



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Wave of jellyfish shuts down Swedish nuke reactor

GARY PEACH
Associated Press

It wasn't a tsunami but it had the same effect: A huge cluster of jellyfish forced one of the world's largest nuclear reactors to shut down — a phenomenon that marine biologists say could become more common.

Operators of the Oskarshamn nuclear plant in southeastern Sweden had to scramble reactor number three on Sunday after tons of jellyfish clogged the pipes that bring in cool water to the plant's turbines.

By Tuesday, the pipes had been cleaned of the jellyfish and engineers were preparing to restart the reactor, which at 1,400 megawatts of output is the largest boiling-water reactor in the world, said Anders Osterberg, a spokesman for OKG, the plant operator.

All three Oskarshamn reactors are boiling-water types, the same technology at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant that suffered a



In this Friday, Dec. 17, 2010 file photo, moon jellyfish are pictured in an aquarium of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco.

catastrophic failure in 2011 after a tsunami breached the facility's walls and flooded its equipment.

Jellyfish are not a new problem for nuclear power plants.

Last year the California-based Diablo Canyon facility had to shut its reactor

two after gobs of sea salp — a gelatinous, jellyfish-like organism — clogged intake pipes.

In 2005, the first unit at Oskarshamn was temporarily turned off due to a sudden jellyfish influx.

Nuclear power plants need a constant flow of water to

Associated Press

cool their reactor and turbine systems, which is why many such plants are built near large bodies of water. Marine biologists, meanwhile, say they would not be surprised if more jellyfish shutdowns occur in the future.

"It's true that there seems to

be more and more of these extreme cases of blooming jellyfish," said Lene Moller, a researcher at the Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment.

"But it's very difficult to say if there are more jellyfish, because there is no historical data."

The species that caused the Oskarshamn shutdown is known as the common moon jellyfish.

"It's one of the species that can bloom in extreme areas that . . . are overfished or have bad conditions," said Moller.

"The moon jelly likes these types of waters. They don't care if there are algae blooms, they don't care if the oxygen concentration is low."

The fish leave . . . and (the moon jelly) can really take over the ecosystem."

Moller said the biggest problem was that there's no monitoring of jellyfish in the Baltic Sea to produce the data that scientists need to figure out how to tackle the issue. □

10,000 walrus come ashore in northwest Alaska

By DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

-- An estimated 10,000 walrus unable to find sea ice over shallow Arctic Ocean water have come ashore on Alaska's northwest coast. Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Friday photographed walrus packed onto a beach on a barrier island near Point Lay, an Inupiat Eskimo village 300 miles southwest of Barrow and 700 miles northwest of Anchorage. The walrus have been coming to shore since mid-September. The large herd was spotted during NOAA's annual arctic marine mammal aerial survey, an effort conducted with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the agency that conducts offshore lease sales.

An estimated 2,000 to 4,000 walrus were photographed at the site Sept. 12. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency that manages walrus, immediately took steps to prevent a stampede among the animals packed shoulder to shoulder on the rocky coastline. The agency works with villages to keep people and airplanes a safe distance from herds.

Young animals are especially vulnerable to stampedes triggered by a polar bear, a human hunter or a low-flying airplane. The carcasses of more than 130 mostly young walruses were counted after a stampede in September 2009 at Alaska's Icy Cape.

The gathering of walrus on shore is a phenomenon that has accompanied the loss of summer sea ice as the climate has warmed.

Pacific walrus spend winters in the Bering Sea. Females give birth on sea ice and use ice as a diving platform to reach snails, clams and worms on the shallow continental shelf.

As temperatures warm in summer, the edge of the sea ice recedes north. Females and their young ride the edge of the sea ice into the Chukchi Sea. However, in recent years, sea ice has receded north beyond continental shelf waters and into Arctic Ocean water 10,000 feet deep or more where walrus cannot dive to the bottom.

Walrus in large numbers were first spotted on the U.S. side of the Chukchi Sea in 2007. They returned in 2009, and in 2011, scientists estimated 30,000 walruses along one kilometer of beach near Point Lay. Remnant ice kept walrus



This Sept. 27, 2013 image provided by NOAA Fisheries shows thousands of walruses hauling out on a remote barrier island in the Chukchi Sea near Point Lay, Alaska.

Associated Press

offshore in 2008 and again last year.

The goal of the marine mammals survey is to record the abundance of bowhead, gray, minke, fin and beluga whales plus other marine mammals in areas of potential oil and natural gas development, said NOAA Fisheries marine mammal scientist Megan Ferguson in an announcement. "In addition to photographing the walrus haulout area, NOAA sci-

entists documented more bowhead whales, including calves and feeding adults in the Beaufort Sea this summer compared to 2012," said Ferguson. "We are also seeing more gray whale calves in the Chukchi Sea than we have in recent years."

Environmental groups say the loss of sea ice due to climate warming is harming marine mammals and oil and gas development would add to their stress. □

Review: 'Sean Saves the World' a funny new sitcom

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Beloved for his supporting role on "Will & Grace," Sean Hayes is back in an NBC sitcom, this time as the leading man whose name is in the title: "Sean Saves the World."

The new multicamera comedy, debuting Thursday at 9 p.m. EDT, takes full advantage of Hayes' manic style and skilled comic timing, qualities that set this show apart more than its basic premise: a divorced father of a teenage daughter with a pushy mother, hectic workplace in online retailing and peculiar boss.

The freshest element of the show: like the actor who plays him, sitcom-Sean happens to be gay.

"If you're gay," asks his daughter (Samantha Isler) in the premiere, "then how did you and Mom have sex?"

To this, Sean replies with a

staccato, shorthand answer: "Gay. Tried not to be. Was. Was again. Was one more time because it was not unpleasant. Am."

Sitcom veteran Linda Lavin ("Alice") adds grounding as his harshly devoted mom. Megan Hilty is retrieved from last season's noble failure "Smash" as a loopy office worker.

But the surprise ingredient that just might push "Sean" over the top is Max, the owner of the company. Mustachioed and stone-faced, he is played by Thomas Lennon (formerly of "Reno 911!" and a co-founder of the comedy troupe The State).

The inscrutably bizarre way with which he interacts with his employees first adales the viewer (the same as his employees), then becomes a treat you look forward to: He could become the show's breakout star. Even so, "Sean" is clearly built around Sean with its breakneck, almost breath-



This publicity image released by NBC shows Samantha Isler as Ellie, left, and Sean Hayes as Sean in "Sean Saves The World," premiering Oct. 3 at 9 p.m. EST. **Associated Press**

less pacing, a heavy dose of physical comedy and plenty of silliness.

If it mostly steers clear of old-line sitcom shtick, the reason may be its creator,

Victor Fresco. His credits include the short-lived but admirably oddball comedies "Better off Ted" and "Andy Richter Controls the Universe."

It's a track record that suggests "Sean" could evolve beyond silly, and squarely into smart.

And keep Max a scene-stealer. □

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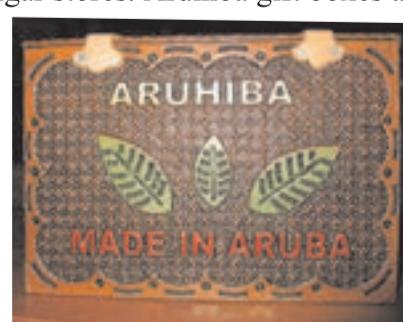
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. With any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. Aruhiba gift boxes are now available at Dufry Shop at the Airport.

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In this Sept. 8, 2013 file photo, actress Sandra Bullock arrives at the premiere of "Gravity" on day 4 of the Toronto International Film Festival at The Princess of Wales Theatre, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Bullock calls 'Gravity' her 'best life decision'

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sandra Bullock says making the lost-in-space movie "Gravity" with director Alfonso Cuaron was "the best life decision I think I ever made."

Cuaron coaxed Bullock into playing an astronaut coping with disaster at the International Space Station after she had intentionally taken a break from Hollywood following her Oscar-winning performance in "The Blind Side," subsequent divorce and then adoption of son Louis.

"What I got out of it personally outweighed everything else," Bullock said in an interview.

"I'm glad I got to meet the human being — Alfonso — that led me to say, 'OK, let me investigate if I can even do this.'

Bullock's priority had been spending time with her son, who is now 3, and Cuaron assured her that she wouldn't miss anything while shooting the film, which also features George Clooney and lands in theatres on Friday.

"It has to be a great time for my son. I can't miss him.

"If I miss him, I will be of no use to you," Bullock recalled telling Cuaron and producers. "You know, he's just learning how to walk. So guess what's going to happen? I have to go! He's taking steps!" But they made it so (nice for Louis). It was a family film. Everyone had kids. So everyone knew the value of that. So they said, 'If we make it amazing for him right where you are, will you be OK?' And I said, 'yeah.'"

Now that "Gravity" has debuted to positive reviews and enthusiastic responses at the Venice and Toronto film festivals, it's likely to gobble up even more time as Bullock again hits the awards circuit. (Critics say she's a lock for a best actress Oscar nomination, given how much the movie rests on her shoulders.)

She's OK with that — to a point.

"Guess what's more important than being here right now? I know it's you, but it happens to be the school run this morning," she told a reporter, laughing. "Because we have picture day on Friday. So as long as I can do those things that to me are very important and make me happy, I can be

here all day, but I have my ins and outs. ... And that's the way it was filming. I was like, I will be here 100 percent as long as I know that little dude is perfectly content."

For much of the "Gravity" shoot, Bullock was hooked up to innovative rigs to simulate weightlessness — sometimes in complete darkness — on a soundstage in London. She was mostly the only actor on set, making it even more difficult to convey the emotions of her character, medical engineer Ryan Stone.

"I would feel sorry for her all the time," said Cuaron, who co-wrote the script with his son Jonas and spent four years developing the film using new technology for weightless effects. "You're frustrated because you can't accomplish something. There's no control. I was always out of my element," she said. "I learned so much on a daily basis. And I just went wow, isn't that funny how being miserable every day physically and then emotionally because of work then turns — makes you open to whatever is coming your way." □

'The October List' is a small but powerful book

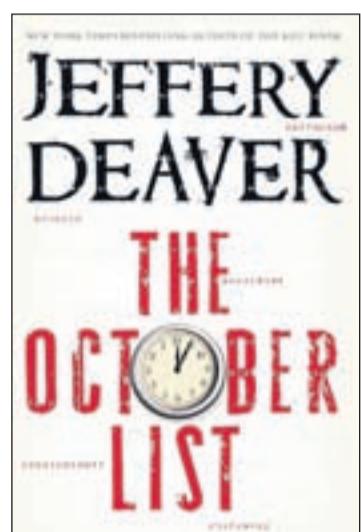
JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

A story told backward has been done in film and print, but Jeffery Deaver gives it his own unique spin in "The October List."

A 6-year-old girl named Sarah has been kidnapped and her mother, Gabriela, has been given a deadline. Not only must she pay a huge ransom, but she must also deliver a mysterious document called the October List.

Gabriela has no idea what she's been asked to find, so she reaches out to Daniel Reardon, an expert in hostile situations. The door-



This book cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "The October List," by Jeffery Deaver. Associated Press

bell rings and the situation spirals out of control. Since the novel is told in reverse order, the first chapter of the story also ends the tale. As the story goes backward in time, the scope of the conspiracy unfolds. When the last/first page is turned, the complete picture will shock the reader. (The next step is to go back through the story and see how everything fits.) □

Lady Gaga to perform at 1st YouTube Music Awards



In this Monday, Oct. 1, 2012, file photo, Lady Gaga arrives at the Versace atelier in Milan, Italy.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — YouTube is launching its own music awards and Lady Gaga will perform at the first-time event. The Google Inc.-owned company announced Tuesday that Eminem and Arcade Fire also will perform at the YouTube Music Awards on Nov. 3. It will take place at Pier 36 in New York City and stream live online. The awards show will honor "artists and songs that YouTube fans have turned into global hits over the past year." Nominees will be announced Oct. 17. Actor Jason Schwartzman will host the YouTube Music Awards. A press release says the awards show will also feature events from Seoul, Moscow, London and Brazil. □

The World According To Team Walt



ROSS DOUTHAT
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Across five seasons of riveting television, the antihero of AMC's "Breaking Bad," Walter Hartwell White, has committed enough crimes to earn several life sentences from any reasonable jury. He has cooked crystal meth in bulk, hooking addicts from his native Albuquerque all the way to Prague. He has personally killed at least seven people and is implicated in the deaths of hundreds more. He has poisoned an innocent child, taken out a contract on his longtime partner, and stood by and watched a young woman choke to death. But one thing he hasn't done, as this weekend's series finale looms, is entirely forfeit the sympathies of his audience. As a cultural phenomenon, this is the most striking aspect of "Breaking Bad" - the persistence, after everything he's done, of a Team Walt that still wants him to prevail.

In the online realms where hit shows are dissected, critics who pass judgment on Walt's sins find themselves tangling with a multitude of commenters who don't think he needs forgiveness. And it isn't just the anonymous hordes who take his side.

"You'd think I'd bear Walt some serious ill will considering he sat there and watched Jane die," the actress who played his vomit-choked victim wrote for New York magazine last week, "but I'm still rooting for everything to work out for the guy."

On the surface, this sympathy is not surprising, given the long pop culture tradition of rooting for the bad guy. But you don't usually hear audiences argue inconsistently that their favorite villains are actually heroic - that a J.R. Ewing or a Francis Underwood is a misunderstood paragon of virtue. And when viewers do make excuses for fictional criminals, it's usually because those characters inhabit distinctive, hermetic worlds - the Jersey mafia on "The Sopranos," West Baltimore on "The Wire" - in which becoming a killer is less a decision than an inheritance, which we can root for them to escape from or rise above.

Walter White, though, begins as a perfectly law-abiding citizen - a high school chemistry teacher and family man, who turns to cooking meth after a terminal cancer diagnosis because it promises to make money for his family. He isn't the product of a lawless environment who never

knew another way. He's a protagonist who made a conscious decision to embrace what society regards as evil, to step permanently outside our civilization's moral norms.

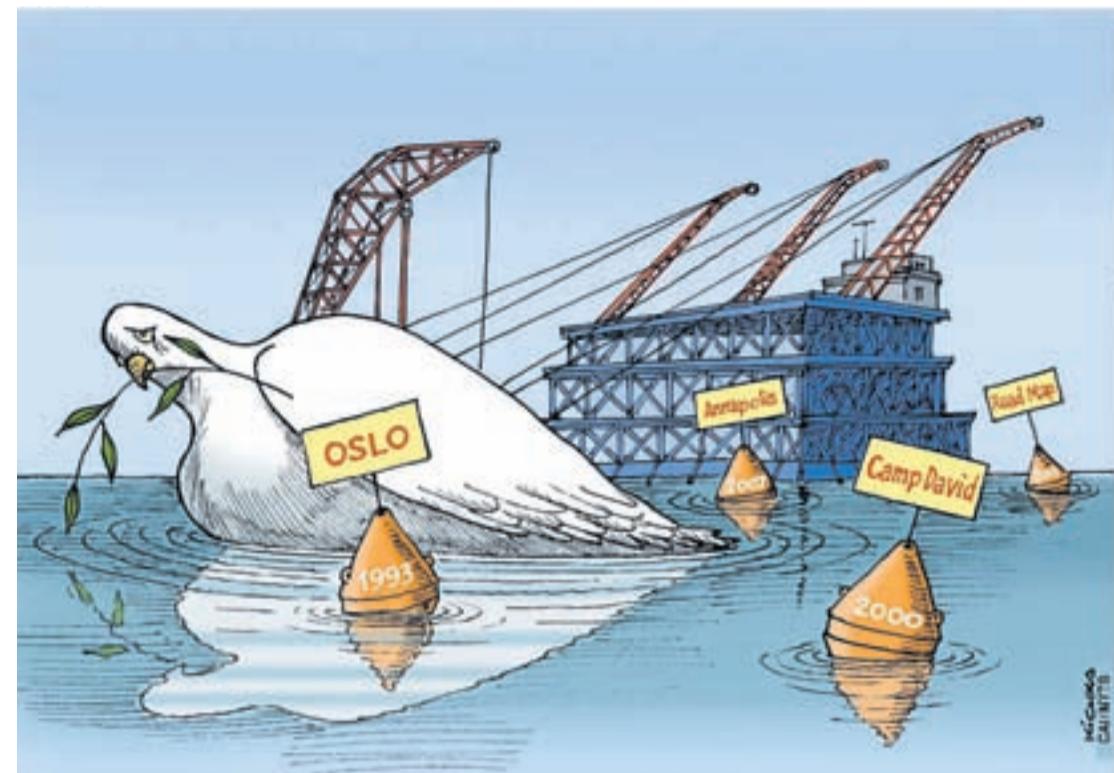
This means "Breaking Bad" implicitly challenges audiences to get down to bedrock and actually justify those norms. Why is it so wrong to kill strangers - often dangerous strangers! - so that your own family can survive and prosper? Why is it wrong to exploit people you don't see or care about for the sake of those inside your circle? Why is Walter White's empire-building - carried out with boldness, brilliance and guile - not an achievement to be admired?

And the fact that so many viewers do seem to end up admiring him - even to the point of despising Walt's conflicted wife, Skyler, because she doesn't appreciate him - is a reminder that the answers to these questions aren't actually as self-evident as our civilization would like to assume. The allure for Team Walt is not ultimately the pull of nihilism, or the harmless thrill of rooting for a supervillain. It's the pull of an alternative moral code, neither liberal nor Judeo-Christian, with an internal logic all its own. As James Bowman wrote in *The New Atlantis*, embracing Walt doesn't requiring embracing "individual savagery" and a world without moral rules. It just requires a return to "old rules" - to "the tribal, family-oriented society and the honor culture that actually did precede the Enlightenment's commitment to universal values."

Those rules seem cruel by the lights of both cosmopolitanism and Christianity, but they are not irrational or necessarily false. Their Darwinian logic is clear enough, and where the show takes place - in the shadow of cancer, the shadow of death - the kindlier alternatives can seem softheaded, pointless, naive.

Nor can this tribal morality be refuted in a laboratory. Indeed, by making Walt a chemistry genius, the show offers an implicit rebuke to the persistent modern conceit that a scientific worldview logically implies liberalism, humanism and a widening circle of concern. On "Breaking Bad," that worldview just makes Walt a better kingpin, and the beautiful equations of chemistry are deployed to addict, poison, decompose.

To be clear, I don't think the show itself is actually on Walt's side. I think Team Walt badly misreads the story's moral arc and vision. But the pervasiveness of that misreading tells us something significant. It's comforting to dismiss Walt's admirers as sickos, idiots, "bad fans." But they, too, can be moralists - drawn by their sympathy for Walter White into a worldview that still lies percolating, like one of his reactions, just below the surface of every human heart. □



Three Sisters (Not Chekhov's)



JOE NOCERA
© 2013 New York Times

It's September, and school's in. Let's talk to some teachers, shall we?

The teachers I have in mind are Edel Carolan, 28; Denise Dargan, 36; and Melinda Johnson, 38. They're sisters, each with a different kind of teaching experience. Edel is a second-grade teacher at a public school in the Bronx, while Denise, who stopped teaching three years ago, spent eight years as a teacher at a New York City charter school, one of the seven charters that Carl Icahn, the financier, has opened in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Melinda, meanwhile, teaches second grade in a suburban school district in New York.

When I got them together over the summer, my thought was that it would be interesting to explore the differences between their varied teaching backgrounds. And there were certainly plenty of differences: Denise raved about her job teaching in the charter school, though she also said that the longer school days and the intensity of the place took a toll on her family life. Melinda, who had also taught at a public school in the Bronx before landing her current job in the suburbs, recalled being amazed at the "sense of calm" in the suburban school. "I was shocked," she said. "I thought, 'Where's all the action?'" Edel talked about

how she could never take parental involvement for granted the way her sisters could - but also about how satisfying it was when she had a class full of kids whose parents were invested in their educations.

In the weeks since we had that conversation, however, what has stuck with me is not so much the differences as something they all had in common. All three sisters felt that they had been unprepared to stand in front of an urban classroom when they first became teachers. Denise, who didn't have a teaching degree, had been hired by Jeffrey Litt, then the principal of the charter school - he is now the superintendent of all the Icahn charters - so it is not a surprise that she had to learn on the job. Indeed, she made it sound as if learning on the job was relatively easy because Litt was such a gifted teacher himself.

Edel went to a college in Pennsylvania and Melinda to one in New York. Both have undergraduate degrees in elementary education, yet they both recalled how lost they felt when they first stood in front of a classroom. They hadn't done nearly enough student teaching, they felt, and, in any case, the student teaching they had done hadn't prepared them to deal with issues, as Edel put it, "like poverty, drugs, crime and hunger" that she was seeing on a daily basis.

In desperation, Edel sent a note to one of her college professors asking for help. (He gave her a few pointers.) Melinda recalls thinking that even the most basic elements of her job - classroom management, organization, lesson planning - were things she had to figure out on her own, after she had begun teaching.

When I asked them what they had learned in college, they shouted in unison: Theory! (Denise went on to get a master's degree in education, which she laughingly described as "not exactly hands-on.")

For all the talk about public school reform - much of which revolves around improving the practice of teaching - what goes on in schools of education never seems to get much attention. According to a study released a few months ago by the National Council on Teacher Quality - a study that reported that three-quarters of the nation's teaching programs are, "at best," mediocre - "the field of teacher preparation has rejected any notion that its role is to train the next generation of teachers." The report continues, "The burden of training has shifted from the teacher preparation program to the novice teacher - or more accurately the new teacher's employer."

Yet shouldn't teacher education be precisely what the reform movement should be focused on? Surely, it would be a lot easier to improve the quality of teaching by training people before they become teachers, rather than after they've started on the job, the way Edel, Denise and Melinda had to learn.

"It never fails to amaze me how few reformers have talked about this," says Amanda Ripley, the author of the fine new book, "The Smartest Kids in the World." Ripley investigated three countries that have educational outcomes better than ours: Finland, South Korea and Poland. In Finland, she discovered that getting into a university teaching program was akin to "getting into MIT," she told me.

"You master a subject, and then you spend a year doing student teaching, with a mentor who gives you constant feedback." By the time the teacher is ready to join the workforce, he or she actually knows how to do the job.

As it turns out, there are some people who are trying to transform teacher education here at home. As the school year progresses, I hope to introduce some of them - and their ideas. □

THE UNSTUFFY TACO



DAVID TANIS

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There is only one good way to eat a taco, and that is to eat it as soon as it has been assembled. No waiting, no fanfare and certainly not wrapped to go. It's all about immediacy, devouring it while it is still in prime shape.

That's why some of the best tacos often come from a roving truck, or a similarly diminutive kitchen. There's no delay.

The tacos I'm talking about are not the least bit ornate, nor are they overstuffed. They are not piled high with lettuce, avocado and Cheddar.

The ideal taco consists of a warm corn tortilla with a spoonful or two of a savory filling. If the tortillas are fresh and the filling (be it carnitas, lengua or frijoles) is well seasoned, that's all you need. OK, perhaps a bit of salsa or crema, and maybe a sprinkling of queso fresco. With good ingredients, a taco like this can be exquisite, even if it's gone in three bites.

At my house, a taco feed is a bit like a pancake breakfast. Once the fillings and salsa are prepared, we elect one person to oversee heating the tortillas, ensuring they are hot, soft and steamy. The rest of us gratefully build our little tacos and gobble them down.

PORK & CHILI TACOS

Time: 1 hour

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

2 tablespoons olive oil or lard

3 pounds pork shoulder, cut in 1/2-inch cubes

Salt and pepper

2 cups diced onion

4 garlic cloves, minced

1 teaspoon cumin seeds, toasted until fragrant and then coarsely ground

1 teaspoon coriander seeds, toasted until fragrant and then coarsely ground

1 bay leaf

1 cup diced tomato

1/2 pound tomatillos, husk on, left whole

3/4 cup chopped roasted hot green chilies, like Anaheim (about 6 chilies)

Soft corn tortillas

1 large white sweet onion, finely diced, soaked for 30 minutes in cold water and drained

Sliced fresh or pickled jalapeños (optional)

Oregano, for sprinkling

Cilantro sprigs

1. Put olive oil in a wide, deep skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork and season with salt and pepper. Stir-fry pork until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Remove pork with slotted spoon, leaving fat in pan.

2. Add onion to pan, season with salt and pepper and cook until softened and lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, cumin, coriander, bay leaf and tomato. Return pork to pan. Add tomatillos and green chilies. Stir well. Add 4 cups water and bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat to a brisk simmer and cook, uncovered, for 30 minutes or until meat is tender and sauce has thickened. Taste and adjust seasoning.

3. To serve, warm the tortillas on a hot cast-iron griddle or pan over a burner. Put 2 warm tortillas side by side on a small plate. Spoon 2 tablespoons pork mixture onto each. Garnish with 1 teaspoon onion, 2 to 3 jalapeño slices, a pinch of oregano and a few cilantro sprigs.

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BLACK BEAN TACOS

Time: 30 minutes, plus time to soak and cook beans

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

1/2 pound black beans, rinsed and soaked 4 to 6 hours, or overnight if possible

1 small onion, halved

1 bay leaf

1 large sprig epazote (optional)

1 teaspoon salt

4 poblano chilies

Soft corn tortillas

1/2 pound fresh mozzarella or Oaxacan-style string cheese, shredded

1/2 pound queso fresco, available in Latino groceries

8 ounces crème fraîche or Mexican crema

1. Drain beans, put in a medium pot, add water to cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Add onion, bay leaf, epazote and salt

and reduce heat to a gentle simmer. Cook for about 1 hour, longer if necessary, adding water occasionally if liquid falls below surface of beans. When beans are tender, taste and adjust salt. Keep beans warm in their broth.

2. Meanwhile, roast poblano chilies over a charcoal grill, under the broiler or directly on a gas stovetop burner until skins are completely blackened and blistered. Set aside to cool. Scrape off skins. Split lengthwise and seed with a paring knife. Cut chilies into 1/2-inch ribbons, move to a bowl and season lightly with salt.

3. To serve, warm the tortillas on a hot cast-iron griddle or pan over a burner. Put 2 warm tortillas side by side on a small plate. With a slotted spoon, place 2 tablespoons of beans on each tortilla. Top with a few shreds of mozzarella and 2 or 3 strips of poblano. Crumble a little queso fresco and drizzle about 1 teaspoon crème fraîche over each taco. □